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Mother, son killed in drive-by attack

IDF enters Ramallah, with PA, in search for terrorists

HERB KEINON
and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

BEIT EL Bet resident Etta Tzur and her 12-year-old son, Ephraim, were killed by terrorists in a drive-by shooting near Beit El last night.

Her husband, Yoel, and four other children aged four to 17 were wounded in the attack.

Following the attack the IDF exercised its right to enter Palestinian-controlled territory in such incidents and, in cooperation with the Palestinian Police, entered PA-controlled Ramallah, where a car answering the description of the attackers' vehicle was found on fire in a garbage dump.

The wounded were taken to Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem section, where one of the children was listed in satisfactory condition, and the others in good condition. Ephraim Tzur died near the scene of the attack, while his father was trying to drive to a nearby gas station for help; his mother died on the operating table.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu cut short his vacation in the South to visit the family at the hospital. At a press conference he confirmed that IDF troops and Israeli policemen entered Ramallah, along with the Palestinian policemen, to search for the assailants.

Netanyahu said he sent a message to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, saying: "We are not willing to accept that the Palestinian Authority provide cover for these murderers, and will not do everything needed, and everything it is obligated to do under the [Oslo] accords, to find



Ambulance workers help a wounded daughter of the Tzur family after her mother, Etta, and 12-year-old brother Ephraim were killed in a drive-by terrorist attack last night near Beit El. Her father, Yoel, and four siblings were wounded in the attack. (AP)



A detective points to a bullet casing on the ground next to the Tzur family's bullet-ridden car. (Reuters)

these people and bring them to justice.

Netanyahu, who said he was impressed by the spiritual strength of the family, added: "These people are part of us. We are committed to their security, and will provide them with security. Anyone who thinks they will uproot the people of Israel from its land, and from the heart of its land, by these types of terror acts, should know that we will uproot them."

The prime minister said that the manner in which the PA searches for the assailants and extradites them is a test. "We expect them to help us find these child murderers and extradite them. We will not rest until they are found," he said.

A special cabinet session is to be held today to discuss the attack, Netanyahu said.

The attack occurred on a year-old road leading from Beit El to Dolev, near the Palestinian village of Surda, on the seam between areas classified under the Oslo Accords as Areas B and C, both under Israeli jurisdiction.

An IDF source said the assailants, driving a Subaru with blue, territories' license plates,

fired at the car and then fled in the direction of Ramallah.

IDF troops and Israeli policemen entered Palestinian-controlled Ramallah, but refrained from carrying out unilateral searches, opting instead to be escorted by members of the Palestinian Police.

The IDF clamped a curfew on Ramallah and the surrounding area, hoping to trap the terrorists in the city. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai instructed the IDF to "act with all the might necessary to locate and capture the murderous cell of terrorists who carried out the attack." He later visited the site of the ambush. Mordechai and Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Shahak were to meet late last night with Beit El residents.

Large numbers of Israeli and Palestinian security forces arrived quickly at the scene of the ambush and began coordinating efforts almost immediately, sources in the Central Command said.

"We are in the middle of the pursuit," said OC Central Command Maj-Gen. Uzi Dayan. "The IDF reacted quickly. We are carrying out searches wherever we need to," he said.

"We have no restrictions if we have information, but you have to remember that we have hundreds of kilometers of roads here," Dayan said. "The searches were carried out around Ramallah. The moment the Palestinians started cooperating, there was no reason why we should not coordinate our entrance [into Ramallah] with them," Dayan told reporters.

Central Command sources denied, however, that Israeli forces were conducting a "hot pursuit" after the terrorists, since it was not known where the gunmen had fled.

Dayan said the Palestinians reacted "relatively quickly" to locate a car fitting the description of the one driven by the terrorists. He said it was found in a garbage dump going up in flames. IDF troops, led by Dayan, and an Israeli Police forensic unit went into Ramallah under Palestinian Police escort to examine the burning vehicle.

Israeli security officials have been warning that the situation in the territories is very tense and an attack like this was expected.

Dayan said it was too early to speculate which terrorist organization is behind the attack. Channel 2 said it may have been a cell of the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is known to operate in the area.

Israel Radio, quoting senior military sources, said the attack may have been carried out by the "Halhoul squad" previously believed to be operating out of the Hebron area and responsible for two deadly drive-by shootings near Beit Shemesh.

In a similar ambush in November last year, Uzi Nevo, a rabbi from Kochav Ya'acov near El-Birah, was shot and seriously wounded not far from the site of yesterday's attack. Last May, David Boim, a 17-year-old yeshiva student, was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting while waiting for a bus outside Beit El. Boim's parents reissued their demand last night for the suspected murderer of their son to be handed over to Israel.

"All signs point to him being in Ramallah. [Last night's] attack was carried out in the same way as the one which killed my son. It would kill me to know that maybe this murderer may have been responsible for these new murders," said Joyce Boim.

Boim said that the suspected killer, Amjad Hannon, was picked up by the Palestinian Authority, but has not been extradited. She said that an official extradition request was made by the government only two weeks ago.

"He is supposed to be in the custody of the Palestinian Authority, but I have my doubts," she said last night. "What kind of peace is this, if Arabs can feel free to murder our children and escape to their Oslo havens of refuge?"

Settlers in the region said last night that the road where the attack took place, which cuts driving time from Beit El to the Coastal Plain in half, has been relatively quiet. "This is the first such incident I can remember on the road," said Aliza Herbst, spokesman for the Binyamin Regional Council.

Bystanders said the family's blue station wagon was riddled with more than 30 bullets.

Yehuda Pinsky, deputy head of the Binyamin Regional Council, said Tzur managed to drive his car to the Beit El gas station. Avigdor Shatz, chief security officer for the Binyamin Regional Council, said emergency vehicles were at the scene in a matter of minutes.

The Tzur family is one of the veteran and leading families in Beit El. He said fellow resident Dov Kalmanovitz, who said Yocel Tzur is one of the managers of the Aruz 7 pirate radio station, and also one of the administrative heads of Yeshivat Beit El. Pinsky said that, in addition to the five children in the car at the time of the attack, the family has another four children.

"If Yasser Arafat does not come across now and show that Ramallah is not a city of refuge, there is nothing else to talk to him about," Pinsky said.

Kalmanovitz, who was wounded in a Palestinian attack during the early days of the intifada, said the attack shows that, "We cannot depend on anybody but ourselves to provide us with security."

Meridor: Attacks threaten peace talks

SARAH HONIG and Itim

"We will not be able to continue the peace talks if they are accompanied by such incidents," Finance Minister Dan Meridor said last night of yesterday's drive-by shooting near Beit-El.

Meanwhile, Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres strongly condemned the attack, saying that the terrorist organizations were doing all they could to stop any chance for progress towards peace. He called on the Palestinian Authority to do all it could do to arrest those responsible and to prevent such terrible acts of murder.

Other reactions to the murder of Etta and Ephraim Tzur by Arab terrorists were largely along party lines, with the Right demanding a halt to the Oslo process, while the Left wanted it speeded up.

Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman MK Uzi Landau of the Likud said that "if this premeditated cowardly murder shows anything, it is that the Oslo process is a bloody one. The PA faces three tests - to prevent terrorism, apprehend terrorists and extradite them to Israel. In the latest terrorist outrage the PA miserably failed the first test and we will see now how it fares on the remaining ones."

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan stressed that "if the latest attack offers any lesson, it is that the government must under no cir-

cumstances compromise on any detail which could compromise the personal security of Israelis. This must remain the basic consideration both so far as the interim arrangements are concerned, and no less so in the case of the final agreement."

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani concluded that "Israel is still fighting for its very existence and the terrorist murders show that this struggle continues unabated despite the peace process. When it comes to security, we can rely on no one but ourselves."

However, he added that "from a pragmatic point of view I don't think that hot pursuit in Ramallah is an option...The PA police ought to seek the murderers, arrest them and deal with them severely."

Education Minister Ze'ev Hammer said the latest terrorist crime "proves how dangerous it is to deprive the IDF of freedom of action in Judea and Samaria, and how threadbare and deceitful the entire Oslo process is." He requested an urgent session of the security cabinet, and a demand that the PA extradite the murderers.

NRP Knesset faction Chairman Hanan Porat wondered "what is the point of nego-

ating with the PA over Hebron, when it does not live up to any of its undertakings and when it turns the cities handed over to it into safe havens for murderers."

He said the NRP will demand that "the Nahal outpost of Yad Yair, near the attack site, become a civilian settlement forthwith as a minimal response to the murderous outrage."

Molelet leader Rehavam Ze'evi called on the government to "stop debasing itself and endangering Israeli citizens by negotiating with the murderous gang headed by Arafat. The attack was not to act of Arafat's opponents but was commissioned by him as part of his negotiating tactic. He has long discovered that when he spills Israeli blood, he wins more concessions and more quickly. To gain at the negotiating table, he sends killers with guns to the roads."

Labor's Ehud Barak said the murders were committed by "those extreme elements which have made it their objective to fill as may Israelis as they can...Arafat must employ an iron fist against these elements for his sake and for the future of the entire region."

Labor MK Ephraim Sneh said that "it is the crisis in the talks with the Palestinians which enables terror to raise its head...The government must intensify the talks with the PA to make possible joint campaigns against terror."

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivili advised the nation to "grit our teeth, wipe the tears and continue with the peace process...This is the only way peace will prevail."

Meretz MK Ran Cohen argued that yesterday's murders should "encourage the government to vacate Hebron as soon as possible. The sooner the better."

Democratic Arab Party MK Taleb a-Sanaa said "the incident does not contribute to the furthering of peace and we must work towards peace with greater intensity and greater speed."

David Rudge adds:

Israeli Arab leaders last night denounced the attack, and called on the government and the Palestinian Authority to resolve all outstanding problems on the path to peace. "We condemn all forms of violence and especially attacks on innocent people," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads. "An attack like this only serves to undermine the peace, as well as coexistence between the two peoples."

Mubarak: Netanyahu promised negotiating role for Moussa

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak complained yesterday that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is backtracking on a commitment to have Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa play a role in resolving the current impasse over a Hebron pull-back.

Mubarak insisted Netanyahu made the offer during a meeting with Moussa last week in Lisbon, only to change his mind due to domestic politics on returning to Jerusalem. "It's bad after you have discussed something to then go home to Israel and say statements that are against all that you agreed upon," he said.

"They want us to press (Palestinian Authority leader Yasser) Arafat to accept their proposals, whether public opinion in Palestine agreed to it or not, or whether Mr. Arafat finds it feasible or not," Mubarak said.

In a briefing for reporters a couple of days ago, Foreign Minister David Levy said Netanyahu informed Mubarak that Israel did not want Moussa to intercede in this delicate issue, believing that the end result would be more "complications" and "delays."

While welcoming Egyptian efforts to moderate Palestinian demands, Levy made clear he feared a precedent for future talks with the Palestinians, now that Egypt considered itself as almost an equal partner in the talks. Other senior officials voiced concern that Egypt was seeking to usurp the US' preeminent role as a mediator.

Mubarak rejected Israel's view that Egypt is not an honest broker. Furthermore, Mubarak declared, "Egypt instigated the peace process and our presence does not need permission. Egypt's role is there and you cannot live without it," he said.

Within a few hours of Mubarak's comments, the Prime Minister's Office issued a statement that Netanyahu was dispatching foreign policy adviser Dore Gold today to Cairo to "prepare the visit of Foreign Minister Moussa to Israel."

Last night, it remained unclear when Moussa would come and to what extent his visit would be tied to the Hebron talks.

Moussa has not visited Israel since 1994, when his reluctance to visit Yad Vashem created a controversy.

US industrialist gives \$30m. to Technion

JUDY SIEGEL

A 74-YEAR-OLD US industrialist is making one of the largest single donations ever to an Israeli university. The \$30 million gift from William Davidson will be used by the Haifa Technion to establish the world's first comprehensive business school for training managers to lead international technology-based industries.

Technion president Prof. Zeev Tadmor, who announced the donation yesterday, said the Davidson School will "help us harness Israel's vast technological capacity to foster economic growth through targeted management education and research."

It will be named in honor of

Davidson, president and chief executive of Guardian Industries Corp. of Anbar Hills, Michigan. The donation is the largest gift ever secured by the American Technion Society, the Technion's friends group in the US.

"The school's mission will be to provide management skills for both recent graduates and experienced executives with strong science and engineering backgrounds. The focus will be on management training for technology-based, export-oriented businesses competing in global markets."

"It will integrate technology and management in conjunction with the Technion's 19 science, architecture, technology, town-planning and medical facilities. It will incorporate the existing Faculty of

the lab into successes in the global marketplace. From my 40 years' experience doing business in Israel and actively investing in its high-tech and finance sector, I believe that technology-based industry represents a tremendous opportunity...to attract foreign capital and, in turn, enhance its long-term economic security."

Israel Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper said it was vital to provide high-tech industrialists with engineers having top-level management skills. "It will fill a large void, providing much-needed personnel for senior management positions," he said.

NEW YORK - US Stocks fell sharply yesterday as a big increase in interest rates sparked worries the market may be starting a long retreat from record high levels.

At the close on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 70.73 points at 6,402.52, after earlier falling as much as 120 points.

With the exception of some technology stocks, the sell-off was broad based, hitting blue chips as well. Declining issues outnumbered gainers by a 4-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange.

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Yahalom: Charge judge said to have insulted haredim

EVELYN GORDON

KNESSSET Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) plans to ask Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi to take disciplinary action against a Beersheba judge who allegedly made insulting remarks about the haredim.

Judge Oded Alyagon, president of the Beersheba Magistrate's Court, was quoted as saying "We have become a target for parasites to whom ideas such as the rule of law are utterly alien. These people, who have never contributed a jot to the country, have set themselves the goal of seizing control of the legal system, or intimidating it, so that they can continue to milk the state's resources without disturbance."

The remarks are alleged to have been made at a farewell party for a retiring judge at the end of August. A motion by MK Yitzhak Cohen (Shas) on the subject was transferred to the Law Committee for discussion. The committee meeting is to take place soon.

Yahalom announced yesterday, however, that he plans to use the meeting to ask Hanegbi to file disciplinary charges against Alyagon for behavior not befitting a judge. Yahalom said such statements by a judge undermined the public's faith in the judiciary, and therefore, the entire democratic system. He said he considered the issue so serious he met with Supreme Court President Aharon Barak about it Tuesday. Barak told him he considered Alyagon's statement extremely grave and had reprimanded him orally and in writing. As the head of the judiciary, Barak said he considered himself personally injured by Alyagon's words, according to Yahalom.

Barak said he considered his reprimand punishment enough for Alyagon, Yahalom said. But in any case the only person with authority to file disciplinary charges is the justice minister, he said. Committee member and former chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) protested Yahalom's plans to request a disciplinary hearing. It is unprecedented for a parliamentary committee to recommend disciplinary proceedings against a judge, he said, and sets a "dangerous precedent of politicizing the judicial system."



Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (Likud) opens the annual Magen David Adom blood drive in the Knesset yesterday. (Israel Hareizi)

MK Massale attacks House blood drive

LIAT COLLINS and JUDY SIEGEL

MK Adisu Massale (Labor) decided at the last moment not to donate blood yesterday, during the annual Magen David Adom blood drive in the Knesset, when he was told his blood would be frozen for later testing, because he is of Ethiopian origin and in a high-risk category. By chance the Massale met Health Minister Yehoshua Matza (Likud) who was also giving blood and told him "I came to donate blood. For years Magen David Adom and the Health Ministry threw the blood of mem-

bers of the Ethiopian community into the garbage. This is your test today, what you do with my blood." Matza assured him that the only consideration in using his blood would be the public's health. "If your blood is found to be unfit for use, it won't be used; if it's found fit, it will be used," Massale, however, refused to be calmed. He accused the ministry of failing to adopt the recommendations

of the Navon Commission, formed after violent demonstrations by Ethiopian immigrants after they learned their donated blood was being discarded. The commission recommended in July that blood should not be taken from anyone who spent at least six months during the past 10 years in any of 63 AIDS-afflicted countries. This and other recommendations have not yet been implemented by the ministry, which says it is still consid-

ering them. Massale grew particularly upset when he reached the clause on the donors' questionnaire which asks about country of birth: "This is exactly the problem," he said. "I can't say I came from Sweden, but I immigrated 16 years ago and you have turned all Ethiopian immigrants into one big case of AIDS." He continued to complain after filling out the forms, telling the blood bank director that he does not trust the service, because he was lied to in the past.

Clalit strike averted

JUDY SIEGEL

A 24-HOUR warning strike scheduled for today in Kupat Holim Clalit's hospitals and community clinics was called off after the two sides met in the Tel Aviv regional labor court yesterday. The strike by 30,000 nurses, pharmacists and administrative and maintenance workers was to have been a protest against the health fund management's plans to replace regular staffers with temporary workers from outside in a variety of services, including the supply of medications. It had been approved by the Histadrut after a

labor dispute was declared. The health fund's management and the unions agreed to sit down and try to resolve their disagreements. In the labor court, management agreed that new Clalit pharmacies would not open without union approval. In addition, management admitted that the deal it had reached regarding the supply of medications had violated previous agreements with Clalit pharmacists. The union would be informed before any additional efficiency moves are made, management said.

Amit stepping down as J'lem police chief

JERUSALEM police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit is to leave his post in March, after three years in the post. Amit informed Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani of his decision yesterday. One of the candidates to replace him is Southern District chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki. Amit plans to first spend three months studying at Harvard University. He refused to be interviewed about the matter, but senior police sources said that when he returns in the summer, he will be a candidate for Inspector-General. If he fails to land that post, he is likely to pursue a career in private business. Cmdr. Gabi Last was recently made deputy inspector-general, meaning he is the most likely candidate for the inspector-general's post, this despite Kahalani's saying this was not necessarily the case. Southern District police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki has been mentioned as the most likely candidate to replace Amit. (Times)

Finance panel unhappy with budget cuts

EVELYN GORDON

KNESSSET Finance Committee members left a meeting with Finance Minister Dan Meridor yesterday convinced that an NIS 6.7 billion budget cut is needed, but still unconvinced that the cuts Meridor has proposed are the right way to achieve this goal.

Meridor said he gave the committee the same economic analysis he gave the cabinet this week. "I hope they were convinced," he said. "From now on, the critical arena is here... The responsibility falls largely on these MKs, and I expect them to demonstrate the same responsibility that the cabinet did."

Meridor said he told the MKs that they were mistaken if they thought economic laws applied only in university, and had no impact in the real world. It was precisely this thinking that led to the economic crisis of the early 1980s, which ultimately demanded much harsher measures to correct, he said. He also said the MKs were mistaken if they thought headline-making threats were the way to gain popularity. The public admires responsible behavior more than populism in its leaders, he said. "Coalition MKs must adjust quickly to the fact that they are no longer sitting on the opposition benches, just as opposition MKs have adjusted to the fact that they are no longer in the coalition," he concluded.

Meridor said he was referring mainly to the cuts in child allowances and payments for doctors' visits, which were part of the original budget proposal. Since the details of the additional cut approved by the cabinet this week have not yet been worked out, he does not yet know how he feels about them, he said. Unlike most members of the social caucus, Kleiner said he agreed with Meridor that it would be a mistake to raise employers' national insurance payments, as this would discourage employment. Instead, he advocates an increase in value-added tax, which would have the desirable side effect of curbing consumption.

Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) said he had been very impressed with Meridor's presentation, and that no one looking at that data could not reach the same conclusion Meridor did: That a NIS 6.7b. cut was needed. "I don't think there was a single MK who left not thinking a cut was necessary," he said. "We have an overdraft, and we need to cover it, precisely so that the lower classes won't be hurt [by the economic collapse which will ensue if the problem is not addressed]."

Meridor's proposal contains no solutions to the economic problems, and carries a heavy social price to boot," said Haim Oron (Meretz). Avraham Shohar (Labor) noted that none of the major problems, such as child allowances and payments for doctors' visits, have yet been worked out, and the vote is less than three weeks away. "I don't see how the government can end with the same budget it submitted," he said. "In my estimation, the budget will pass, but not the way it is now. There will be very significant changes."

In other news, the religious caucus met yesterday to demand an additional NIS 300 million for religious issues in the 1997 budget. "I'm not even sure [those who

'Women of the Wall harass men'

HAIM SHAPIRO

POSTERS addressed "to our Jewish sisters" greeted the Women of the Wall at their Rosh Hodesh prayers yesterday. The posters said Judaism does not condone sexual harassment, but added that an immodestly dressed woman who prays aloud near a man is guilty of harassing him. Last month, when the Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform women's group came to the Western Wall to recite their prayers at the beginning of the Hebrew month, they were met by a group of haredi men who threw chairs and benches at them. The violence had apparently been organized, following reports MK Yael Dayan (Labor) would amend

"The Jewish definition of harassment includes not exposing to our view any part of you that you wouldn't want a stranger to touch," the posters said. "It also says that a man is forbidden to pray - whether aware of it or not - in front of such exposure. Your voice is an intimate part of you too, and so prayer is forbidden to the Jewish man if any female voice is to be heard." The women's prayer service at the Wall yesterday went off without incident. The posters, which were written in English, fined the route the women normally take from the Wall, where they recite the morning

prayers, to a site in the Jewish Quarter where they read from a Torah scroll. The poster went on to describe the prayer of Hannah (from Samuel I 1:13) as the prototype of all Jewish prayer, stressing that Hannah prayed silently. The poster exhorted other women to do likewise. Jerusalem municipal councilwoman Anat Hoffman, an active member of the Women of the Wall, said she well remembers the prayer of Hannah - and she said she also remembers the reaction of the religious establishment to Hannah and her prayer at the time. The biblical account tells that Eli, the high priest, thought Hannah was drunk.

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Champagne makers plan for a bubbly millennium

THREE years before the New Year party of the century, champagne makers are licking their lips at the prospect of huge demand for their special millennium bubbly at up to \$90 a glass.

For those who want to uncork the very best when the clock strikes midnight on December 31, 1999, the sky is virtually the limit as French champagne houses prepare luxury offerings for as much as 12,500 francs (\$2,400) for a giant-sized bottle.

At that price, the bottle comes in a finely finished wooden case, delivered to your door at the appropriate time accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

But the bubbly inside is the same as that found in everyday bottles sold in oen-millennium years, industry officials admit.

"Every producer is going to come out with a special hatch for the millennium," said Guillaume Bruneau of the Champagne Wine Board, predicting "limited quantities at fabulous prices." Many plan futuristic-looking bottles and labels, in keeping with the theme of a leap into the 21st century, while others will sell old vintages and specially selected reserves.

Some will no doubt simply roll out whatever has built up in their cellars over the years, to be sold off at inflated prices.

In any event, a serious case of millennium marketing fever has gripped the champagne district, some 150 km northeast of Paris, which has prospered because its product has become the symbol of shared joy and celebration.

The fever can be glimpsed in a walk down a dimly lit tunnel carved by the ultra-prestigious Louis Roederer firm out of the rock beneath the city of Reims.

At the very end of the seemingly endless tunnel - actually a huge wine cellar - looms the "Caveau 2000," a sort of under-

ground bunker sheltering precisely 2,000 "methuselahs" of Roederer's signature "Cristal" champagne from the 1990 vintage.

Each numbered methuselah, temporarily wrapped in a plastic film and laid on its side in one of 15 specially built racks, holds six liters of amber liquid, the equivalent of eight ordinary champagne bottles.

Each sells for \$2,000 including taxes and delivery. That's about \$37 for a normal-size glass.

"It is going to be sublime," predicted Frederic Heidsieck-Verine, Roederer's export director. "It's a bit magical. It's a bit mad. I think it is going to be smashing."

Though identical wine will also be sold in ordinary Cristal bottles, "the difference is that in a six-liter bottle, the wine evolves more slowly and in a more uniform fashion," he said.

"The real question is, will people drink it or simply keep it as a memento? Today I was with some people from Houston, Texas, who say they absolutely will drink it," he said.

Roederer began planning for the millennium in 1990, Heidsieck-Verine boasted, looking askance at word that rival Moot et Chandon will offer the 1993 vintage in the millennium edition of its top-of-the-line Dom Perignon brand.

"1993 is an important vintage. 1990 is an exceptional vintage," he boasts with a smile.

"1993 was a very great year," snapped back Richard Geoffroy, a Dom Perignon executive.

The Cuvee Dom Perignon 1993 that he helped create is limited to 1,993 jeroboams, each the equivalent of four ordinary bottles.

It will sell for \$2,400 a bottle, or about \$90 a glass.

The main difference between the special millennium offering

and an everyday bottle of Dom Perignon will be the size of the bottle, Geoffroy acknowledged.

"There will be no engraving or gimmicky stuff on the bottle, or any change in its shape. It is a very, very strong statement of Dom Perignon. Its image is its image," he said.

"We have already sold several hundred bottles. The Australians appear very excited. They are not at all bothered by last year's nuclear tests."

Like the Roederer offering, the Dom Perignon bottling is also passing the time aging in a special underground cellar.

In the meantime, buyers of either brand are encouraged to visit their bottles and are mailed annual reports on expert tastings assessing the wine's development over the years.

As of January 10, 1996, for example, Roederer tasters were detecting a bouquet of "brioche, with aromas of honey, flowers and fruit."

It typically takes five to seven years for a top vintage champagne to progress from harvest to sale. Thus the vintage wines to be drunk at the start of the new century had to come from the 1993 vintage at the latest.

Non-vintage champagnes - most champagne is sold without a harvest year on its label - take two to four years to make.

Unlike most still wines, non-vintage champagne is typically a blend of wines from many different years. But the grapes harvested this year will be the last available for inclusion in millennium champagnes. The 1996 vintage appears to be "fabulous, exceptional," said Bruneau of the Champagne Wine Board.

"We don't say things like that every year," he said. "We have truly been blessed by the gods. Maybe it had something to do with the pope's trip to Reims in September." (Reuters)

THOSE of you who read last week's column may have been discouraged by my pessimism regarding our ability, as consumers, to prevent ourselves from falling prey to the provision of shoddy services - particularly those upon which we rely on just to make it through the day. The innumerable pitfalls I have encountered since moving last month to a new apartment make such pessimism rather unavoidable.

Nevertheless, just as I believe in exposing injustice whenever possible, I also adhere to the principle of giving credit where credit is due. I would thus like to dedicate this column to Arutzei Zahav (Golden Channels) - the cable TV company franchise to which I am a subscriber.

Five such companies operate in Israel: Tevel, Masav, Gvanim, Idam, and Arutzei Zahav. Rather than being in competition with one another within each region, each covers its own area. Arutzei Zahav is the largest. It is owned by Aurec, Yodior Aharonov and Globes, and operates its broadcasting franchise in Jerusalem, much of greater Tel Aviv and a large chunk of the south.

Caught, as I was, in the midst of a war of wills between Bezeq and the contractor/owner of my building, I was nonetheless, faxless and

CAVEAT EMPTOR
RUTHIE BLUM

without a good two-and-a-half weeks after moving in. This created unbelievable difficulties where setting up a household/office was concerned. Worse than that, it made my children even more rambunctious than usual. And this is no small feat, let me tell you.

In my Jerusalem neighborhood, cable TV can only be transmitted in cooperation with Bezeq. Though Arutzei Zahav has established and uses its own infrastructure in some areas, in others, transmission networks are set up within the existing infrastructure built by the phone company.

Unfortunately, the existing Bezeq infrastructure had been destroyed when the old house on the plot was torn down to make way for the four-story apartment building in which I now reside. The charming contractor - my landlord - failed to mention this minor glitch to all parties concerned. This failure on his part created an unnecessary delay in both phone and cable installation.

But, whereas Bezeq waited for the contractor's electrician to complete his job of preparing the proper infrastructure within the bowels of the edifice before sending its own technicians to hook

the internal infrastructure up to that of its own, Arutzei Zahav took an active role in speeding things up for its new clientele.

During the last phase of this little song-and-dance between various electricians, technicians, and their superiors, the cable company actually cut a few corners and a lot of red tape in order to come to my rescue.

Bezeq continued to stress that without steps A, B, and C being completed in the building, it "could not" install my phone. And, in the infrastructure hierarchy of things, until that time, no cable TV "could be" installed either.

The last "step" before having someone come and make a dial tone resound from the instrument receiver is when the phone company gives the building a "Bezeq code." This is supposed to be the final "thumbs up" sign. Mysteriously, even after the building was given this famous code, Bezeq still "couldn't" send a technician over to connect me to the rest of humanity. "Sorry, lady, not until the electrician informs us of the completion [sic] of his job." I was told for the millionth time.

Arutzei Zahav, on the other

hand, sent two technicians over as soon as the Bezeq code was given. And, since the cable technicians were all booked up on the fateful day, they came to my house after hours! In they marched - cheerfully, on less - at eight o'clock in the evening. They worked for four hours drilling, pulling wires, and even - gasp! - went beyond the call of duty to correct flaws in the electrician's wiring. They also played with my children, petted the dog, and had a few laughs.

Finally, they swept up the debris they had created, and exited with their garbage to tow, leaving me with a little more faith in humankind, and reinforced faith in privatization.

Note: Each cable socket you request costs extra, though each point after the third is free. It is illegal to lie about how many outlets you'll be using (since it is actually theft) - a common practice nowadays, when it is possible, is to create your own central wiring. Having caught on to this trick, the cable companies protect themselves by disconnecting all the TV sockets in a given house which are not paid for.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Shades of a glittering past

FLAIR
GREEN FAY CASHMAN

It is an interesting quirk of fate that the opening in Tel Aviv of JB Jewellers' Fabergé exhibition coincided with the announcement by De Beers of its intention to search for diamonds near St. Petersburg. For it was in St. Petersburg that the famed Fabergé workshop was headquartered.

Carl Fabergé, jeweler to the czars and known as "the Workmaster," did not, in fact, create any of the superbly crafted items which bore the hallmark of his company, says Leah Popper, a local expert on decorative arts. But out a single item left the workshop, she adds, without being inspected by Fabergé himself.

Fabergé is best known for the exquisite jeweled Easter eggs produced each year for the czar and members of the imperial family.

Altogether, there were 57 such eggs, 47 of which have been traced, and of those 27 were acquired by the late Malcolm Forbes who had one of the largest Fabergé collections in the world.

At the dawn of the Russian Revolution, Fabergé fled to Switzerland, and two of his sons tried with only moderate success to revive their father's jewelry empire in Paris. It was not a lasting venture, because the opulence of the late 19th century and early 20th century had vanished. It took several years before the styles characteristic of that era resurfaced.

Unilever, the present owners of the Fabergé trademark, eagerly sought to recreate the Fabergé tradition, but only in 1992 did they found a workmaster whose own standards were sufficiently high. The chosen firm, Victor Mayer of Pforzheim, Germany, has been in existence since 1890, and more than a century ago was already interested in emulating Fabergé's style.

The house of Fabergé won great reputes for its superb enamel work, and Victor Mayer has perfected many of the enameling techniques for which Fabergé was famous. It has also developed a rich palette of colors, but has not yet reached Fabergé's record of 145.

Maryse O. Mohr, a fourth-generation jeweler and descendant of Victor Mayer, noted this week that his company is today the only one in the world producing Fabergé jewelry, and stressed that the most important element in the collection is the French enameling which stems from the Byzantine period.

"Fabergé adopted this technique and perfected it in Russia," he said, explaining that every color has its own specific temperature and one has to know which temperature to use. In addition there are several layers of color, each of which has to be burned in and polished by hand. Gold inlays, or pavilions as they are known in the trade, are applied on the penultimate coat.

The effects of all this are particularly beautiful on rings and on miniature eggs which have been fashioned into pendants, and retail for around \$1,700. Prices rise in accordance with the precious stones in the setting.



H. Stern's new collection offers tri-color rings and necklaces in yellow, white and red gold set with pink and white diamonds.

IN OTHER jewelry news this month, H. Stern's World Collection was introduced last week at a truly glittering affair at the Tel Aviv Hilton, the traditional venue for its annual show. Each item in the new collection features the oew H. Stern signature, a constellation of stars, which reflects the meaning of the company's oamc - Stern being star in German - and which also symbolizes its stellar vision. Of particular interest were tri-color rings and necklaces in yellow, white, and red gold, set with pink and white diamonds.

Tri-color gold rings are gaining in popularity and are prominently displayed in jewelers' showcases all over the country. Wide bands are also gaining in prominence in both wedding rings and dress rings, with large stones dominating the latter.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

OFFERS

LADIES BOOTS - Italian, black, suede, high heel, size 36 (7), NIS 200. 04-833-2815.

CAMEL'S WOOL CLOYS - 6 metres, NIS 350. 04-889-4701.

SEIKO'S PRINTER DOX MATRIX - with box of paper, good condition. 02-629-1898.

SYNTHETIC WOOL - NIS 4. Epilady, NIS 40. 02-629-6999.

6-SHELF BOOKCASE - 02-739-8789.

ELECTRA GAS HEATER - 3 flames, long combustion tube, hardly used. NIS 250. 09-40268.

COLOR TV - good condition. NIS 250. 09-564892.

BRUCKBAUS HANDBUCH DES WISSENS - 4 volumes, in German, Leipzig 1927. NIS 200. 02-506-7346.

CD PLAYER - with remote control, very good condition. NIS 300. speakers, NIS 50. 02-525-9070.

BMX BICYCLE - with safety wheels, excellent condition. NIS 280 a.h.a. 09-334-8272. NE FLAT IRON - Remington (travel), new, unopened, warranty, NIS 120. 02-643-7573 (res.).

CHILD'S DESK - like new, NIS 325. 02-652-2393.

EXERCISE BIKE - NIS 175. 02-625-9884.

SEWING MACHINE - needs some repair, yours for the taking. 02-566-2612.

BABY CARRIER - original BabyKing from US, new, superbly comfortable. NIS 120. 02-567-0066.

BAMBOO BOOKCASE - NIS 100 a.h.a. toaster oven, needs work. FREE. 02-631-4640.

SONY REMOTE CONTROL FOR TV - cable, VCR, new, original package, NIS 100. 02-625-2071.

35 ASSOCIATED CDS - jazz, rock, classical. 50% quality. NIS 10 each. 02-561-1976.

RADIATOR HEATER - hardly used, NIS 250. 02-535-3089.

CARRY-ON BAND LUGGAGE - with 1500 liter storage chest, female, top opening, beige/brown, 80 cm high. NIS 150. 02-651-1763. NS.

RECORD PLAYER - ATWA, new, unopened. NIS 350. 02-563-9153. NS.

BABY'S BED - NIS 350. 02-561-1475.

FAZ-MODERN - Everset 2496, up to 9600 band, with software and documentation, NIS 150. 02-652-1788. NS.

OPTI FREE LENS SOLUTION - 3 bottles, 355 ml each, 60 enzymatic cleaners, all for NIS 200. 02-651-3447. NS.

PETIT POINT TAPESTRY - with frame, excellent condition, 130 x 50 cm, 19th-19th century garden scene, NIS 350. 02-652-0576.

2 1-DAY TICKETS TO DISNEY WORLD, FLORIDA - expires August 16, 1997, includes flight and MGM studios, NIS 90 each. 02-586-2927.

ELECTRIC FAN HEATER - 3 kw., NIS 80. table fan, medium-size, NIS 60. English complete personal organizer, brand, new, NIS 150. 02-563-3784.

2 CHILDREN'S BUNK BEDS - wooden frames and mattresses, NIS 300. 02-566-6173.

BESIDE TABLE - small, solid oak, dark brown, 2 drawers, NIS 350. Yaela, 02-583-2143.

SHARP WIZARD ORGANIZER - Model OG 7000, NIS 100. 02-566-8819. NS.

GRAY TWINED WINTER COAT - ladies', 100% pure wool, size 10-12, double-breasted, never worn, NIS 180. 02-622-2141. NS.

COURVOISIER COGNAC - unopened bottle, NIS 150. 02-651-3222.

MEN'S RUSH PUPPIES SHOES - size 45, for men, brown, worn only one day, NIS 170. 02-561-0713.

CENTURY CAR SEAT - NIS 100 a.h.a. 02-671-8996.

BLACK & DECKER DRILL - plus 12 drill bits, good condition, NIS 280. 02-670-2911.

HELDIN DRESS - original, many hand-embroidered patches, NIS 350. 02-652-8925. NS.

HERALD THERMOJETICS - beige and green tables, 3 patches' supply, NIS 100 per month. 02-535-1975. NS.

SWITZER FOLDING BIKE - NIS 150; mirror, NIS 20; leveling board, NIS 35. 02-581-8013.

ELECTRIC TYPEWRITER - Olivetti, French/English, almost new, NIS 300. 02-676-4378.

OPRAH WINFREY COOKBOOK - in the kitchen with Oprah, new, NIS 50. 02-671-0220.

2 ELECTRIC HEATING CONVEYORS - NIS 150 each. 02-651-9262.

GALA WASHING MACHINE - newly overhauled, top-loading, NIS 20. 02-651-8140. NS.

MIKE STYLER - excellent condition, NIS 300. 02-563-3830. NS.

STEREO TAPE CABINET - wood and glass, top oak, must sell quickly, NIS 350. 02-586-4922. NS.

2 FINE LADIES' SUEDE SHOES - Tova model, size 40, one brazenly worn-out, one brown, wide-toed, NIS 130 each. 02-566-5006. NS.

NABY CRIS - and mattress, NIS 100. 02-563-2138.

MANUAL EXERCISE STEPPER - NIS 110; new man's British thermal underwear; 2 vests & 2 pants, NIS 135. 02-623-6798.

COFFEE/TEA SET - hand-made ceramic, new, unopened, NIS 350. 02-585-3316.

PRINCESS DISHWASHER - old but very like the new, NIS 300 a.h.a. 02-407851.

STEREO - phono, AM/FM radio, tape, 2.7kW on speakers, plus over 50 classical records, NIS 200. 02-625-1574.

SUEDE AND FUR COAT - full length, NIS 200; 6 large books, 20th century, NIS 150. 02-678-7116.

DOT MATRIX PRINTER - Panasonic 81191, with ribbon, new, NIS 250 a.h.a. 02-533-4039.

IBM SELECTRIC TYPEWRITER - (English) with 4 extra balls, including symbols and ball, extra ribbons and cartriges, NIS 250 a.h.a. 02-566-5914.

SUNSHAM MIXER ATTACHMENTS - with power blender, meat grinder and juicer, never used. 02-643-1091. NS.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC - 1978-'84, NIS 3 each. 02-676-7672.

ELECTRIC MASSAGE MACHINE - for standing position. 02-622-3306.

HOYPLATE - new, electric, temperature settings, NIS 200. 02-653-6386. NS.

38 CLASSIC AND SEMI-CLASSICAL RECORDS - some new, all in jackets, NIS 200 a.h.a. Proceeds to Amik Women projects. 02-563-1314. NS.

CONCEAL RECLINER - in excellent condition, NIS 300. 02-681-3485.

FISHER PRICE DIAPER PAIL - NIS 100; baby monitor listening device, NIS 250. 02-672-5503. NS.

BLACK CANVAS HIKING BOOTS - size 39, NIS 50; cabinet, 2-door, white, 100x60x60cm, NIS 200. 02-678-0070.

COORLE DINNERWARE SET - NIS 320. 02-651-9743. NS.

WASHER MACHINE - Pilot, good condition, NIS 350. 02-561-7986, new.

WOMEN'S REEBOK WALKING SHOES - black, size 37, worn once, NIS 300. 02-582-7312.

GIORGIO ARMANI - upper bank, practically new, plus 92 cm. off the door, mattress separate, NIS 150. 02-672-8004. NS.

ANVY ENCYCLOPEDIA - set of 17, good condition, NIS 350. 02-581-5416. NS.

KERCHESER - for thighs and upper body, new, NIS 60. 02-643-6023, new, NS.

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT - Speed-Rider, one year old, NIS 350. 02-562-5561. NS.

AMISRAGAS - counter-top twin gas burners, excellent condition, NIS 200. 02-674-0017.

MOVIE SCREEN - 48" x 52" on stand, NIS 250. 02-582-0024.

DREEM WOOL CARDBING MACHINE - NIS 100. 02-673-1579. how much?

2 KURSH DRAPEZY TRAVELERS ROOMS - 2.7 and 2.2 meters, NIS 60 and NIS 25; 2 room-dressing shades, 110 and 130 cm, NIS 25; Trinitone ATAT phone, NIS 25. 02-563-1590. NS.

GIRL'S COAT - full-length, new, English, size 12, NIS 89; unlined, size 16, NIS 49; men's large winter coat, NIS 49; new salad bowl, NIS 29. 02-678-5834. NS.

ELECTRIC HEATER - 50 years old, well-used, NIS 70. Brand A, new, NIS 70; copper finode set, NIS 60; designer party dress, black, size 38 small, NIS 100. 02-563-6959.

WALKING SHOES - ladies' size 40, beige, elegant, worn once, NIS 75. 02-561-7034.

WANTED

DOUBLE STROLLER - one seat in front of the other, like 02-527-9724.

HEATING GAS STOVE - children's toys, rag dolls, Lego, swing, garden slide, classical cassettes or CDs, Cecil, 09-882-8985.

CHAINS, TABLES - see No. 1 next of Russian immigration. Will pick up in Raik area. Nechemia, 04-838-2219.

COMPUTER SCREEN - VGA of SVGA, to purchase; ideas for young mother to work from home. 02-673-5745.

PIANO - inexpensive, 02-563-5789.

SINGLE JEWELRY FEMALE - non-smoker, to top Prague with same during month of December. 02-582-7076.

CHILD - approximately 1 year old, for English-speaking kindergarten in Ramat. 02-585-7634.

CLASSIC DINING ROOM SET - 300 cm table plus 6 chairs; lacquer/teak/brass table and four lamps; plastic electric burner (toaster). 02-651-9222.

ORIGINAL SOFTWARE - Hebrew and English - for Windows 3.11. 02-653-8802. NS.

BAX MACHINE - for Yid Sarah, recent model in A1 condition. 02-644-4256.

IBM OR COMPATIBLE COMPUTER - hard disk, 400 or 300 processor in good condition. 02-679-2337. NS.

HAMILTON BEACH TOASTER OVEN - used, in my condition, needed for spare parts. 02-673-5231.

OLD COMPUTER SCREEN - in working order. Don't throw away! 02-595-1827. NS.

OLD BOOKS - to buy. 02-581-2662.

TELEPHONE LINE - Mod. 02-566-0971. NS.

WIRELESS INTERCOM - instruction manual for Windmill 4.5. 02-641-7568. NS.

LOUFFY DISKS - 3.25 in., double density. 02-537-2394.

REFRIGERATOR - for yeshiva. 02-582-3993.

FISHER PRICE HIGH CHAIR - clean, good condition, immediate. 02-581-1025. NS.

TREADMILL - State-metzer, or similar exercise machine in good condition - white motorize hand 02-671-1151. NS.

KARMEI AND RAJANANA - occasional sides to and from, gladly share expenses. 02-561-0733.

DID ANYONE TAPE - the George Michael concert on MTV on December 27 Nov. 02-672-0048.

PIANO - in good condition and reasonable price. 02-671-6503.

COLOR TV AND SMALL OVEN - as domestic. Like 02-577-9724.

LOOKING FOR CRYO-CURE - made by Almat, for use after knee surgery. 02-993-2880. NS.

THE JEW IN ENGLISH FICTION - book by David Phillips. 02-571-8907.

ENGLISH STORY BOOKS FOR AGES 3-6 - to purchase; ideas for young mother to work from home. 02-673-5745.

MAGIC CHEF - Mikameter, excellent pot, past, cooking steels. 02-566-2982.

OLD WRISTWATCHES - hobbyist watchmaker will purchase forgotten/mechanical watches, gold/silver, Schaffhausen, Longines, other, any condition. 02-675-8886/79-8125.

BOYFRIENDER KITCHEN CABINET - Window air conditioner, counter-top dishwasher. 02-563-2271. NS.

CIGARETTE LIGHTER ADAPTER - for Nokia Model 2325. 020-293777. NS.

HAND WEIGHTS FOR AEROBICS - with weights. 02-561-1976.

ROUND FINE-DINING TABLE - with chairs, and sofa, modern style, in good condition. 02-671-2590.

STOREROOM FOR OLIM - seeks electrical appliances, household goods (pots, pans, dishes, etc.), old furniture, etc. Sun. Thru. 10 am - 4 pm; Fri. 10 am - 1 pm, 24 He'eman St., Tel-Aviv. 02-679-6848.

KEREN KLITA - seeks furniture for new olim, will collect. 02-678-8277. NS.

PETS

KITTENS - beautiful, friendly, healthy, some vaccinated, some neutered, some handicapped, free to good homes. 02-628-3521. NS.

MEDIUM-SIZED DOG - 5 months, female, friendly, like children, vaccinated, looking for similar homes for lasting relationship. David. 02-641-4847.

F.M. ROBERTO - 2 1/2-month-old cat, black, lovely, looking for a family. 02-566-4570.

KITTEN - grey female, 3 months old, very gentle personality, vaccinated, healthy, bio-trained and bioeaten, available only to quiet, good home. 02-561-7890. NS.

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No refuge for murderers

THAT the IDF exercised its right to enter Palestinian-controlled territory following last night's deadly drive-by shooting near Beit El is an important first step in changing the norms of behavior after a terrorist attack.

Rabin wrong, at the cost of scores of innocent Israeli lives. It took serious pressure on Israel's part, including a prolonged closure of the territories, to persuade Arafat that he should move against the Islamic militants.

Nothing to cheer about

IN Baghdad, Iraqi crowds danced in the streets to celebrate the partial lifting of United Nations sanctions on the country's oil sales.

Iraq's poor innocents under sanctions, they have been less than vocal about the reconstructed palaces and hedonistic lifestyles of the repulsive Saddam regime.



Two-faced French

What happened last week at a formal meeting in Lisbon, where European leaders had gathered to discuss security problems facing the West.

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

Chirac's terrorist chickens came home to roost last week

become Iran's main partner. It was a fatal error of judgment, like virtually all other incidents of French Mideast diplomatic wheeling and dealing.

Street wisdom

LARRY DERFNER

ANYONE who wants to grasp the killjoy mentality of Israeli conservatives should visit Sheinkin Street in the heart of Tel Aviv.

The pious and piously patriotic Sheinkin is the symbol of everything that's bad about this country. Just mentioning the name is enough to get their blood up.

I live five blocks from Sheinkin, and find myself walking it a few times a week. Out of snobbery, I used to put it down. Sheinkin was commercialized bohemia, a tourist attraction.

Then a few months ago, I was drinking coffee at the Wooden Horse sidewalk cafe toward sundown, and I realized I felt happy.

The street was crowded, and I don't like crowds, and I don't like demonstratively cool people; but this, I had to admit, was great.

After a few moments it struck me that this was a street clogged with Israelis, where everybody was talking but nobody was yelling.

How many other places in Israel are so populous and lively and at the same time so civilized? Maybe Ben Yehuda Mall in Jerusalem - but I would say Sheinkin is every bit as animated, yet quieter.

Gradually I realized that Sheinkin is a model of what a bustling urban thoroughfare should be. It has everything.

Shiekin is a model of what a bustling urban thoroughfare should be

Steinkin is a block-long park with swings, rides and sandboxes, and it is always filled with kids.

Yes, there are many restaurants that sell liquor! But given the price of drinks anyone would have to be stupid to try to get drunk, so they don't. Tippy, at most.

I found two places that could legitimately offend religious sensibilities: Women's Only, with its Barbie and Ken dolls fornicating in the window display and its vibrators sold inside; and Jovino Dragon Tattooing and Body Piercing.

That's all the racism Sheinkin offers. The rest is a rare mix of old and new, exotic and mundane.

The Third Ear video and music store, with its French New Wave movie section and collector's jazz records, stands next to the Barzilai Orthopedic Workshop with its prosthetic legs.

Fashion boutiques have names like Le Chic Parisienne, Big Tom's Streetwear and ZaZa, but then there's Yehuda Levy's tailor shop, with myopic Yehuda Levy, here for 54 years, bending over his sewing machine.

MANY haredim live on the side streets off Sheinkin. They pass alongside the girls in their tight paisley bell-bottoms and no one bothers anybody.

Old, Ashkenazi Tel Aviv still has a considerable presence on the street. There's Itzik's Sandwiches and Itzik's Gift Shop; Rosenberg and Federbusch Printing Press and two Ashkenazi eateries, Diamond's and Feller's, the latter canteen from Thai Food Noodles Bar.

What bothers conservatives about Sheinkin? That the young people here are left-wing? They are - in their minds. But they don't do anything, which is a shame.

I counted four political banners on the buildings - all Likud. The street's one permanent banner hangs from the Habad Center. Overlooking the park, it reads: "Prepare for the coming of the Messiah."

I think what riles our values arbiters most about Sheinkin is that, to their eyes, it's so... weird. Daring, international. It says that not everything in Israel has to be so damned wholesome.

I'm proud of Sheinkin. It's a world-class city street. I'd put it up there with the kibbutz, the Jaffa orange and drip irrigation on the list of great things Israel has given humanity - and to hell with what anybody says.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS FRIEDMAN

Sir, - As a regular reader of, and occasional contributor to the Eye on the Media column for as long as it was in existence, I was surprised (to put it mildly) to find that the ADL should have chosen Thomas Friedman to speak at one of its functions ("Anti-Defamation League defamed?", December 6).

the PLO when he graduated from Brandeis University in 1975. At that time, he identified with "Breitra," the single organization so critical of Israel that it was ostracized by the American Jewish community and disappeared when the anti-Israel credentials of most of its leaders were exposed.

releasing the 700 or so terrorists whose freedom the hijackers had demanded. Israel's refusal, he claimed, contributed to the hijacking as certainly as a victim's body contributes to rape or murder.

Sir, - I would like to enlighten your readers about the probable truth behind the facts reported in Judy Siegel's article of November 29, "Haredi TV watchers hiding in computer closet."

COMPUTER CLOSET bar mitzvas and the like. It might be a useful technological exercise to design a chip which will allow the VCR connection while blocking TV reception till the user pays the license fee.

twice as much as ordinary TV cards. As for use of video among haredim, there are many haredi rabbis who denounce the use of videos, even for recording family events, for fear that the machine will be used to watch "forbidden" films.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



A Marilyn Monroe look-alike displays a photo of Marilyn Monroe as it was auctioned recently at Sotheby's in London. The photo sold for 402 pounds sterling in an auction of Rock 'n' Roll and film memorabilia.

(Reuters)

My son is making the same mistakes I made

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



DEAR Ruthie, My son has had the same girlfriend since he was in the ninth grade. Just about to complete his military service, he announced that he is getting engaged to her.

I have nothing against this girl specifically - though I admit, I can't say I have anything particularly positive to say about her either. What concerns me is that my son has never been with anyone else. Having myself made the mistake of marrying too young, and subsequently getting divorced when my son was 10, I feel it is my duty as a responsible mother to try and prevent my son from making the same mistake.

The problem is that I have mentioned this to him before, but he always shrugs it off as one of my interferences. Now that he is actually getting engaged, I don't know how to have a similar conversation without him thinking that I just want to rain on his parade. How can I go about doing it, and getting my message across?

Morose Mom over Son's Marriage

Somewhere in Israel
Dear Morose Mom,

It is virtually impossible to pass on to someone else the wisdom gained by living through life's experiences. Though it certainly can't hurt to share these experiences with our children, it usually has so little meaning to them that it is irrelevant whether we do so. Ironically, the point at which they would actually be able to bear what it is we are trying to communicate is the point at which they have already made a few mistakes of their own. In other words - too late to spare them from having to learn certain lessons the hard way.

Your own early entry into matrimony probably could not have been prevented by parental intervention, any more than your son's can now.

This does not mean that you need embrace what he is doing with open arms, however. There is no reason for you not to sit him down and discuss your fears about his imminent engagement, as they relate to your own experience. Just don't harbor

MEIR RONNEN

HENRI Friedlaender, co-founder and first director of the Hadassah Printing School, who died in Motza Illit last month aged 92, would have been pleased to know that all the street signs now going up in the new Jerusalem Kirya area are in the Hebrew typeface he designed and perfected while hiding from the Nazis in Holland.

The doyen of Israel's typographers and book designers, and a Gutenberg Prize laureate (1971), Friedlaender began working on his famous Hadassah type in Germany at the age of 26, despite the fact that he did not know Hebrew at the time and lacked a traditional Jewish background.

The complete Hadassah font was first cut and cast for hand composition in 1958, later being adapted for Intertype composing machines. It eventually became available on photographic discs and then computer tapes. In the early days, Hadassah, the first truly modern Hebrew type, was also cut in wood for use in large headlines.

Friedlaender, who was born in Lyon, France, in 1904 and taken to Germany as a child, received his printing education at the Leipzig Academy of Graphic Arts. He worked as both compositor and designer for various German printing houses before moving to Holland in 1932. In 1939 he married German-born Maria Bruhn and was



Henri Friedlaender and his famous Hadassah Hebrew font.

active as a designer for Dutch publications until the Nazis invaded the Netherlands. Maria, born the same year as Henri, died two years ago. When the Nazis ordered all Jews in Holland to assembly points, Friedlaender told Maria that he was going to report in order to avoid getting her into trouble. She wouldn't hear of it and insisted on biding him

in an attic. Friedlaender spent the next 1,018 days in the attic while his wife risked her life to bring him food and transfer his projects to his old Dutch printing firm, where they

were published under a pseudonym. While in hiding Friedlaender spent much of his time studying Hebrew, Judaism and the Bible. One Hanukka he drilled holes into a steel frame of the sort once used to "lock up" forms of hot-cast type - to serve as a hanukkiya. It appeared innocuous enough not to attract the attention of snooping Nazis.

Henri and Maria came here in 1951, settling in a tiny Jewish Agency house in Motza Illit, after Henri was invited by Hadassah's Brandeis Center to head the Hadassah Apprentice School of Printing, where he remained director until 1970. After that, although formally retired, he continued to teach at the Bezalel and the Kiryat Neor Printing School.

The Gutenberg Prize awarded by the city of Mainz confirmed Friedlaender's international reputation. He was invited to design several Hebrew fonts, like Aviv and Hador, for IBM systems. He also designed new alphabet ball needs for IBM electric typewriters, in both Hebrew and English.

Friedlaender felt every letter and its relationship to all its possible neighbors to be both a practical and aesthetic combination of balance, shape, proportion, density and flow of negative as well as positive shapes, leading the eye effortlessly along a line of type. Employing just a pen, ruler and slide rule, this quiet, courtly man left us a remarkable heritage.

Alaska's the place for king-size crops

JOHN Evans is one serious gardener. Five years ago he moved to Alaska, but not for any of the usual reasons - the snow-topped mountains, the abundant wildlife or the kilometers of wilderness.

Instead, he came north dreaming of what big things he and 20 hours of daily sun could create in a half-acre (0.2-hectare) garden.

Evans lives to cultivate vegetables of unusual size. Like a 32-kilogram Swiss chard, a 20-kg. red cabbage and a 35-kg. bunch of broccoli - all world records.

"It's always been a bit of an obsession," he said.

Plenty of Alaskans share his passion in a land where summer is brief but intense, as a visitor to the Alaska State Fair soon learns. Walking around the fair's veggie display is like cruising a roadside farm stand, except that the produce looks like it was grown on steroids.

There are stalks of rhubarb like vaulting poles; broccoli tall and broad enough to shade a family picnic, and beets bigger than basketballs.

Alaska's competitive gardeners harvest

their crops mostly for fun, though there is some profit out there for those growing the unofficial state vegetable - green cabbage.

Since 1941, the cabbage showdown - based strictly on size - has been held annually at the state fair in Palmer, a town 60 km. north of Anchorage that was founded some 60 years ago as a New Deal agriculture project.

The first winning cabbage weighed in at 10.4 kg. The current record is 44.4 kg., set in 1990 by Lesley Dinkel, a member of the family that has dominated the contest for years. The world record stands at 56.2 kg.

In past years, the biggest Alaska cabbages earned \$50 and momentary statewide fame for its grower. This year things got more interesting when the purse was boosted to \$4,000. Half went to the winner, who was, of course, a Dinkel.

Gene S. Dinkel grabbed the big prize with a sprawling leafy head that tipped the scales at 41 kg. Second place, worth \$1,000, went to his uncle, Gene A. Dinkel, at 37 kg.

The megacabbage exhibit was one of the fair's biggest attractions. After waiting in a long queue, devotees gaped and gasped and

grabbed snapshots of the elie entrants.

"That's a lot of coleslaw," said one impressed visitor.

Just what it takes to grow a monumental cabbage is open to debate.

Gene A. Dinkel, patriarch of the clan and perennial winner, insists that it's not much more than digging a hole in the ground, throwing in some seeds and letting the sun do its thing. So far as care and feeding goes, he offers up little but the most basic guidance.

"While they're growing, you don't touch them," he said. "If you squeeze them, you break the ribs and they split." Split cabbages are ineligible for the fair.

Dinkel said members of his family are gardening hobbyists, while Evans - who holds 20 Alaska size records but shuns cabbage as being too popular - approaches the field as a self-proclaimed "nutty professor."

He does extensive botanical research and experimentation and mentions such concepts as biocatalysts and hormone treatments. He works to fine-tune his plants to stand up to disease and excessive sun. He would like to start his own seed company for megavegetables.

Rocco Moschetti, a federal farm agent in Palmer, said vegetables in Alaska are in general slightly bigger than produce in the rest of America because of the longer summer days. But not all vegetables are monster size.

The competitive gardeners have their techniques, Moschetti said. They use special seeds, start their plants indoors during the early spring, and feed and fertilize them intensively.

It's also necessary to protect their giant vegetables. "Lots of people have lost their prize cabbages to moose that find their way into the yard to have a meal," he said.

A few weeks ago Evans held an open house at his garden in Palmer, and the tourists thronged.

"It was like a rock concert," he said. "The ladies were screaming when they saw the giant vegetables still on the vine."

Dinkel said he's often gotten a similar response of amazement from people who don't see king-size crops every day.

"You can talk about it all you want," Dinkel said, "but until they see it, they don't realize just how big it is."

He was vilified up and down the state. If the Vietnam escalation and a less anti-intellectual president had not followed the Kennedy assassination, I believe Mario would have settled down and become a netlessome and revered left-wing professor. Mario was never about personality. He was about the truth.

Our philosopher king

E.F. Barasch remembers US student leader Mario Savio

IF I had not gone down from the Technion in Haifa to buy a support for my running shoe in Kiryat Eliezer, I might not have picked up *The Jerusalem Post* and read that the greatest student leader in American history, Mario Savio, had died in Sebastopol, California. In the same newspaper, Mary Levy, the coach of the Buffalo Bills, was interviewed regarding the Bills' excellent performance this year in the NFL.

In 1963, Levy was head coach of the University of California "Golden Bears" who were destined for a 4-5-1 record. I was a new and very upright freshman at Berkeley. And Mario Savio was a junior transfer student from one of the City College campuses in New York.

Mario and I lived in the same motel-like private housing complex in Berkeley, right across from Tolman Hall.

Mario had been a physics major back in New York with a 3.8 GPA and he didn't know what he wanted to do at Berkeley. Coming to the West Coast was a restless move on his part. He was seeking a better life.

I was part of a very interesting generation of students who hit the universities in the US at this time. We were the post-Sputnik generation. There was a general panic in American education - the Russians beat us into space in 1957 because US colleges had not taught us enough science or promoted "excellence."

So, we were sorted, filed and stuffed into accelerated classes. This was the time tracking was invented

and Advanced Placement classes were instituted in high schools.

We worked very hard in high school in those days and an "A" grade was not easy to come by. Ten percent of my graduating class of 300 went to the University of Chicago, and the rest of us populated the best schools in the country. Except for the Boston schools, that is - we were too nerdy and too Jewish for Harvard. In fact, the word was out that Harvard thought that nerd equals Jew. We knew that unless we were really good at basketball or were Protestant, South Shore students had no chance at Harvard.

Berkeley got three of us guys from South Shore in 1963. The service academies got a couple of us, too. We worked our butts off to get to where we were and when I got to Berkeley, I found that the guys from the other Midwest and East Coast high schools had worked either as hard or even harder.

The Californians from small-town high schools had no chance. They were flunked out in their own minds in the first month. Berkeley was a major school for big-city students or hard heads from places like the prep schools in Hong Kong.

Mario already had a 3.8 average in physics in a New York college when physics was the king of academia and New York was one of its major centers where you could

walk into Berkeley and just glide. Mario could do that, along with the others from Stuyvesant and Bronx Science and the tough DC schools and big city schools. They got "A's" in physics, math, and anything else you might think of and still had time for Marvel Comics, the other sex, civil rights and philosophy. And Mario was our King Philosopher.

Same-sex sex and drugs were to come later. The "out-of-state" students who were to become the notorious leaders of all-which-was-to-come at Berkeley were the leaders because they could afford the time. They had come so prepared and had been pushed so hard in high school that they could be excellent students and still have the time to sit around and ask important questions - like, "Guys, what the hell are we doing and why?"

Mario and a lot of the Berkeleyans were in the South on voting-rights drives, being chased by local citizens and local police in 1964, just a few months after John F. Kennedy was killed.

My first conversation with anyone at Berkeley was with Mario, who had come to Berkeley to get out of the East's atmosphere of career-at-any-cost. The famous saying which came out of Berkeley just a year or two later: "Don't trust anyone over 30!" really meant don't trust anyone over 20. We

found that the people just a year or two ahead of us totally were bought off by the systemic careerists who sniffed at reformers like Romans at the Coliseum.

Mario had the maturity and the accomplishment of an upper-classman, but he had the searching soul of an overworked and disillusioned freshman. What did Mario and I talk about on the tarmac on Hears? Why, of course, the Hassidim in New York, and how we both admired their family values and committed way of life and intense humanity. "I'm jealous of those people [the Hassidim]," Mario said. It was the first time in my life that a non-Jew had ever told me that there was something so admirable about Jews that one could be "jealous" of. Mario became more and more serious about his questioning of life.

His first roommate was a right-wing Goldwater supporter who thought that Kennedy's assassination was a bad way to get rid of a bad president. Mario got along with him fine. Mario's second roommate that year was a nuclear engineering student who spent his entire time by his desk in impeccably clean white T-shirts, designing nuclear reactors. He told me that he was concerned about Mario, since he would stay up all night worrying about the human race.

One day, Mario asked me: "What should I do with my life? What should I study at this university?" The king asking the peasant.

His inquisitions seemed nothing more to me than Diogenes himself, looking for the very truth in the eyes of Berkeley undergrads. He was dead serious about it. Sometimes when I saw Mario walking down the street, I said to myself this is what a true, charismatic leader looks like. His very passion lights his face. He looked like a very sane and sweeter version of Van Gogh.

I couldn't handle Berkeley and left. I visited in the very beginning of the fall term of 1964 and most of the political types had taken a house on College Avenue. That house became "Free-Speech Movement Central." The house was torn down soon after - some say that was so it wouldn't become a shrine. I saw Mario and he was a changed man. Gone was the philosopher. He had spent the summer in the Mississippi Delta helping to register black voters, very much to the displeasure of the local whites. He had lost weight and he looked grim. I knew there was something brewing at Berkeley but there wasn't much talk about it.

A few weeks later, there was a big confrontation between the police and students. My mother was ironing laundry in front of the TV and I said to her "Mom, I don't know what's going on, but my friend Mario's involved in it somehow."

Then the TV showed Mario standing on a cop car without shoes, haranguing the hundreds of students who had prevented the policeman from taking away a stu-

dent he had arrested for exercising his constitutional right of free speech and assembly. The University of California, in its wisdom, had decided to banish "politics" from the campus.

And the Berkeley students, led by Mario Savio, fought them and won. "Mario Savio" became a phrase of derision in California.

He was vilified up and down the state. If the Vietnam escalation and a less anti-intellectual president had not followed the Kennedy assassination, I believe Mario would have settled down and become a netlessome and revered left-wing professor. Mario was never about personality. He was about the truth.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, December 12, 1996

Turbowicz resigns

DAVID HARRIS

DR. Yoram Turbowicz, the 38-year-old head of the Trade and Industry Ministry's Antitrust Authority, resigned yesterday after five years in the post.

Turbowicz said it is time to move on, either to private industry or to a law firm. He will be replaced by Dr. David Tadmor.

Currently a partner in Tel Aviv law firm Levy-Tadmor, Tadmor is a member of the Business Restrictions Court and an external lecturer at Tel Aviv University. He will take up his new post in February, subject to government approval.

Turbowicz gave notice of his intention to leave to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky soon after Sharansky took over the ministry.

Turbowicz's name has been linked with the attorney-general's

position recently vacated by Michael Ben-Yair. He refused yesterday to comment on the suggestion that he might like the job or that he has been approached as a possible candidate.

A source in the Industry and Trade Ministry said Turbowicz is too young to take such a top position.

"He is still too inexperienced," the source said.

Ben-Yair's replacement will be appointed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi. "No decision has been taken so far," said Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak. "We are not reacting to any speculation."

The Justice Ministry also refused to discuss the appointment of a replacement before it is ratified in cabinet.

French Danone to buy 20% of Strauss

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

FRENCH dairy giant Danone has signed an agreement in principle to acquire 20 percent of Strauss Dairies, Michael Strauss, chief executive of the Nahariya-based company said yesterday.

Strauss refused to comment on reports the deal was struck for \$56 million, based on a company valuation of \$280m. He would say only that a final agreement will be signed early next month in Israel in the presence of Danone President Franck Ribot.

"We had hoped to sign the agreement this week or next week, but Danone's president will only be in Israel at the start of January," said Strauss.

According to the agreement, Danone will purchase 20% of Strauss's dairy activities and help the company get into the baby-food field.

Danone, which ranks among the world's leading food companies, produces dairy goods, cookies, crackers, beer and water. The company's annual turnover last year was about \$16 billion, with French sales accounting for less than half of overall revenue.

Strauss Dairies, the 60-year-old, privately held company that is Touva's only serious competitor

in the Israeli dairy market, expects its new partner to provide it with extensive expertise in yogurts, as well as baby food. Strauss also will import French-made Danone products.

Strauss's dairy division currently makes up the core business of the Strauss Group. Following the sale, the parent company will consist mainly of its ice-cream firm, in which Unilever has a 50% partnership, and the salad division.

The transaction was first discussed one and a half years ago, after Strauss signed an exclusive agreement to represent Danone products in the Middle East.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tenders out for Nazareth 2000 developments: The Government Tourist Corporation has issued tenders for four parts of its Nazareth 2000 project, in anticipation of the celebrations marking two millennia of Christianity. The project includes development of the town square at the foot of the Roman Catholic Basilica of the Annunciation; a square at the fountain in front of the Orthodox Church of the Annunciation; a pilgrims' way through the town between the two squares; and the Sceraya Market. According to David Harnik, the corporation's director-general, Nazareth 2000 is one of its most important projects, with an estimated NIS 20 million to be invested in the town's tourist infrastructure in 1997. *Haim Shapiro*

Doron appointed temporary head of Menorah Insurance: Menorah Insurance Company has appointed Gedalya Doron as temporary general manager of the company. Gal will replace the late Shabtai Angel who died last week at the age of 60. Gal, who is a member of Menorah's board of directors, will serve as manager until Menorah's board find a permanent replacement. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Ericsson signs Lebanon deal: Swedish telecommunications company Ericsson and its Lebanese subsidiary signed an agreement to sell equipment to phone companies in Lebanon. The order has been signed with France Telecom in Lebanon and includes new switches and radio base station equipment. The order value is about \$90 million.

The new equipment will be installed during 1997-1998. France Telecom, with its local partner, is the leading operator on the Lebanese market today. Total subscriber capacity of the system contracted with Ericsson now exceeds 160,000. *David Harris*

Hamat signs agreement to sell German faucets in Israel: Germany's Blanco, a manufacturer of kitchen sinks, has signed a five-year exclusive representation agreement with Hamat, a member of the Merhav group. According to the agreement, Hamat will supply Blanco faucets to the Israeli market. Hamat, also a subsidiary of Merhav, has signed an agreement to distribute Italian Dolomite Ceramics in Israel. Dolomite is a leading European manufacturer of sanitary products. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Hamat signs deal with German partner: German-based Blanco, the manufacturer of kitchen sinks, has signed a five-year exclusive representation agreement with Hamat, a member of the Merhav group. According to the agreement Hamat will supply Blanco taps to the Israeli market. Hamat, also a subsidiary of Merhav, has signed an agreement to distribute the Italian Dolomite Ceramics in Israel. Dolomite is a leading European manufacturer of sanitary products. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Renters cuts 5% of workers in Americas: Renters Holdings, the worldwide news and financial information company, will lay off about 170 people in the Americas. The cuts amount to about 5 percent of Renters' 3,500 workforce in the division.

Employees affected include journalists, marketing and sales staff, finance and technical workers, and 20% of those to be dismissed are at the management level.

While some sales operations will be consolidated, none of the company's offices or its 44 news bureaus in the Americas will be closed. The layoffs will probably be completed by mid-January, the London-based company said. *(AP)*

UK's Clarke fights for Euro currency: UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke yesterday expressed sympathy for a single European currency and accused anti-European members of the ruling Conservatives of wrecking Britain's negotiating position on the matter. Clarke ran into jeers from fellow Conservatives when he told them jettisoning the pound sterling would not mean joining a European superstate.

Prime Minister John Major's Conservatives are bitterly divided over the single currency, which the European Union plans to introduce from 1999. *Reuter*

AT&T: Internet usage hurts our long-distance business

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - AT&T Corp. chairman and chief executive Robert Allen has acknowledged the company eventually needs to take measures to stem the potential loss of customers who use the Internet to save on phone bills.

Digital technology now enables computer users to make telephone calls - computer to computer - via Internet access lines that circumvent traditional long-distance phone service.

Only a small number of companies and computer enthusiasts now use the Internet for exchanging voice data. Voice clarity often lags that of ordinary phone calls, and reaching someone is more complicated. But the concept is taking off as the technology improves.

In bypassing long distance carriers, these callers typically pay a flat rate to Internet access providers, now running about \$20 a month for unlimited online use.

That isn't a big threat to AT&T's business because many people do not yet have the capability to make phone calls through their computer lines, Allen said on Tuesday.

But the development could one day represent a problem for AT&T. Some observers say voice and video communications through a computer network may eventually prompt a company to consider eliminating their phone system.

"While I don't lose a lot of sleep over people who are cutting into our business charges by using the Internet for business services today, it's something that we should be more rigorous about in the future," Allen said during a luncheon speech to the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco.

He added that the company is hedging against losses in that area by offering one-price packages, rolling into one fee such services as Internet access, wireless communications and pagers as well as long distance service.



Thousands of civil servants hold umbrellas and banners as they march through central Madrid yesterday, during a public-sector strike. Spain's conservative government said only 15 percent of workers heeded the call to strike against a public-sector wage freeze. The giant General Workers' Union said 89.5% of workers came out on strike. *(Reuter)*

Infrastructure Ministry, Treasury at odds over break up of gas contracts

EVELYN GORDON

THE Treasury and the Justice Ministry would support legislation to force gas companies to break their long-term contracts with suppliers, but the National Infrastructure Ministry opposes such a move, a Treasury official told the Knesset Economics Committee yesterday.

Acting committee chairman Avraham Poraz (Meretz) said the committee will decide in the next few days whether to pass such legislation. Poraz said it was "very surprising" that hearings on the gas contracts in the special Business Restrictions Court have gone on for three years with no end in sight.

This inability of the court to deal with the issue might indicate a need for legislation, he said.

Ronen Hadashi of the Treasury's budget division said the Treasury would not object to new legislation or to continuing work on a bill by Knesset speaker Dan Tichon

(Likud) that passed its first reading during the last Knesset. Rabel Gershoni of the Justice Ministry said her ministry would support legislation, since the case in the Business Restrictions Court was going nowhere. Poraz asked her to prepare a legal opinion by the end of the month.

However, Ze'ev Afik, legal advisor at the Infrastructure Ministry, said there have already been 15 draft laws in the past four years and none were enacted because of the difficulty of classifying various gas stations.

"We think it is necessary to create a competitive environment in this market, but we do not intend to submit a bill on the subject and we cannot cope with 100 different versions for every two or three stations," Afik said.

Three gas companies opposed

legislation.

"Many contracts have already been released," said attorney Ram Swan of Sonol. "At Sonol, most of the contracts are short-term. If he wishes, a gas-station owner can lower his prices and the company will share in [the cost of] the discount."

Attorney Ya'acov Friedgot of Delek said the dozens of contracts that have been broken so far have not resulted in any benefit to the consumer. Instead, they have put "hundreds of thousands of dollars" into the hands of the station owners, who can now negotiate with the gas companies, he said.

"Today, when stations do not have equal opportunities to check prices and decide where to buy, there is no real competition, so there's no reason to lower prices," said Yair Rosenkrantz, chairman of the Association of Gas-Station Owners.

However, Shmuel Dankner, chairman of gas company Dor Energy, said those contracts that have been released saved the public NIS 700 million a year.

Antitrust Authority director-general Yoram Turbowicz said if Delek would join a compromise agreement that Paz and Sonol already signed, another 120 gas stations would be released from their long-term contracts.

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Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.8442	3.7030	3.20	3.20	3.5750
German mark	2.2907	2.3133	2.07	2.18	2.1250
Pound sterling	2.1160	2.1482	2.07	2.18	2.4400
French franc	5.4036	5.4908	5.31	5.57	5.4400
Japanese yen (100)	0.0239	0.0251	0.01	0.02	0.7025
Dutch florin	2.5628	2.5256	2.28	2.38	2.1750
Swiss franc	1.8955	1.9180	1.88	1.96	1.8950
Swedish krona	2.4749	2.5149	2.43	2.48	2.4040
Norwegian krona	0.4002	0.4090	0.47	0.57	0.4840
Danish krona	0.2082	0.2144	0.24	0.28	0.2077
Finnish mark	0.5822	0.5812	0.54	0.57	0.5881
Australian dollar	0.7067	0.7181	0.69	0.73	0.7118
New Zealand dollar	2.2948	2.4336	2.36	2.47	2.4101
Australian dollar	2.5573	2.6256	2.54	2.57	2.6017
S. African rand	0.6970	0.7083	0.63	0.71	1.0250
Belgian franc (10)	1.0290	1.0426	1.00	1.06	1.0250
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0088	3.0351	2.95	3.10	3.0273
Italian lire (1000)	2.1882	2.1727	2.10	2.21	2.1891
Portuguese escudo	4.8300	4.9409	4.85	4.84	4.8350
Jordanian dinar	0.8300	1.0100	0.83	1.01	1.0250
Egyptian pound	4.0767	4.1425	—	—	4.1025
Irish punt	5.4225	5.5101	5.32	5.59	5.4850
Spanish peseta (100)	2.6190	2.6699	2.46	2.59	2.6973

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Shares decline on US woes, led by exporters

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ



Two-Sided Index Maof Index

STOCK indexes fell as world stock and bond markets dropped and the US dollar fell against major currencies. Concern that Japanese investors will pull their cash out of the US sent US Treasury bonds tumbling. Stock indexes in France, Germany and the UK fell as much as 1.6 percent, following a plunge in bonds and US stocks futures. In Tel Aviv, the Maof index fell 0.95% to 214.90 and the Two-sided index fell 0.70% to 206.39. The general bond index rose 0.11%.

Eurobourses slip on Wall Street worries

World Market Roundup

LONDON (Reuters) - A fresh bout of market nerves that Wall Street's record-breaking run could be faltering depressed share prices worldwide yesterday and undermined the dollar. Reviving fears of the red ink that washed over markets late last week, Wall Street, the world's biggest stock exchange, opened with pronounced losses. Market participants have fretted that the Dow, which has advanced by nearly a third this year, could be headed for a major correction. The London market's FTSE 100 index has risen by around 9 percent in 1996, a third of the Dow's gain.

Dow drops on fears of sustained pullback

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks fell sharply yesterday as a big runup in interest rates sparked worries that the market may be beginning a sustained retreat from record high levels. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond was down more than 1 1/2 points late in the day, its yield, which rises when prices fall, was 6.62 percent, up from 6.49% late Tuesday. At the close on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 70.73 to 6,402.52, recovering from the day's worst loss of 120 points. With the exception of some technology stocks, the sell-off was broad based, hitting blue chips as well as secondary issues. Declining issues outnumbered advances by a 4-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 524 up, 2,148 down and 668 unchanged. NYSE volume totaled 494.19 million shares vs. 446.80 million in the previous session. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 6.81 to 740.73, and the NYSE's composite index fell 4.36 to 389.54. The Nasdaq composite index fell 3.42 to 1,309.13, and the American Stock Exchange's market value index declined 6.87 to 583.92. Stocks opened lower and stayed under water all day as the bond market sustained dramatic losses.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF. Rows include R, MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of stock prices and changes, categorized by Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading. Includes columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, and others. Columns include Name, Price, and Change.

Key Representative Rates

Table showing exchange rates for U.S. Dollar, Sterling, and German mark against the NIS.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

Table of New York market indices including DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, and NYSE Composite.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes like FTSE 100, Singapore, and Nikkei.

Israeli stocks in US

Table of Israeli stocks listed in the US market.

AG Associates

Table of AG Associates stock prices and changes.

LIBOR RATES

Table of LIBOR rates for various terms and currencies.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Table of foreign financial data including futures, options, and bonds.

US COMMODITIES

Table of US commodity prices for various goods.

London commodities

Table of London commodity prices.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metal prices in the US.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures prices.

London metal fixes

Table of London metal fix prices.

Galil wins for naught

IN an evening that was seemingly scripted by Edgar Allan Poe, a Hannuka miracle turned into a painful twist of fate. Minutes after pulling off an improbable victory by the minimum number of points required to reach the round of 16 in the European Team Cup competition, Scopia Macedonia pulled off a surprise 77-75 victory over Benefica Lisbon and grabbed the final spot in the next round of play.

Rishon LeZion's sojourn in European competition ended as well, as its 79-76 loss in Athens to Sporting gave the Greek club a two point aggregate victory as Korac club competition enters the quarter-final stage.

Elsewhere, Hapoel Jerusalem defeated the Swedish Guteberg club, and will now face either Benefica Lisbon or the German Ulm club in the European Team Competition's round of 16.

ELI GRONER

Galil Elyon 118 Plevan 110 (OT)
All appeared lost after a shoddy second-half performance by the northerners turned a 55-47 halftime advantage into a 75-69 deficit. However with just six minutes remaining, Mark Karver, Jason Dixon and Alon Stein sparked a late run that gave Galil a 93-89 lead with 1:20 to play.

Harrisimer Demitrov responded with five points on two successive possessions, enabling the Bulgarians to take a 96-95 lead with just 15 seconds left in regulation.

Coach David Blatt, sensing that the northerners only hope would be to force an overtime session, immediately ordered his troops to commit a foul.

After Peter Petrov converted two free throws, the Bulgarians led by three with just seven seconds remaining.

That was when it really started getting weird. Karver connected on an unfathomable three-point prayer and was fouled in the process. He then purposely missed his first free throw

of the season forcing the extra session. In the overtime period, the northerners exploded on an 8-2 run over the last 1:30 in order to garner the necessary eight-point victory.

The happiness was short-lived though, as the Macedonia victory threw a damper on the festivities.

Karver paced the northerners with 27 points, with Andrew Kennedy and Gil Sela chipping in 19 apiece. George Mladenov had 33 for the Bulgarians. Hapoel Jerusalem 98 Guteberg 86

Hapoel utilized an extremely balanced attack en route to the comfortable victory. Dan Bingenheimer led Jerusalem with 19 points while Moti Daniel (17), Doron Shefa (17), Billy Thompson (14) and Adi Gordon (13) helped shoulder the offensive load.

Sporting Athens 79 Rishon LeZion 76 Rishon's run of poor play continues, as it lost to the ninth place team in the Greek standings. The loss ended Rishon's European play this season, and gives the club an opportunity to focus purely on the National Basketball League.

Maccabi faces crucial game tonight against Ulker

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

IT'S do or die time for Maccabi Tel Aviv.

A victory over Ulker Istanbul tonight (Channel 1, 8:45) sends coach Zvi Sherf's club into the next round of Euroleague play as one of the top three teams in Group A, meaning they'll face easier clubs in the next level of competition.

A loss to the Turks makes Ulker the number three team from Group A. Maccabi is then likely to be grouped with more of the European powerhouses in the next round of play, making the road to the Final Four that much more difficult.

The Turks certainly have some momentum, coming off last week's stunning double overtime victory over Limoges, in which the French club's inability to hit foul shots down the stretch coupled with some sensational late three-point shooting gave Ulker the victory.

That, however, was in Istanbul, before the Turkish club's wild fans. Even Maccabi succumbed to Ulker in Turkey, losing there 84-80 back in October. Tonight, at Yad Eliahu, things should be different - or will they?

Based on Maccabi's recent Euroleague performances at home, there's reason for concern. Last week's shabby victory over Panionios and the home loss before that to Limoges have fans wondering whether someone should check the mezuzas at Yad Eliahu.

There's more reason for concern: super sub Brad Leaf hurt his back in Monday night's victory over Galil Elyon, making him questionable for tonight. After playing outstanding ball against CSKA Moscow, Randy White has returned to being a Euroleague enigma, and played particularly badly against Ulker in his first

match-up, where he went to the bench with four fouls with over 12 minutes to play. The fact that Maccabi's defense gave up 86 points to the usually defense-minded Galil Elyon club also is worrisome.

Still, Doron Sheffer has played well of late. Oded Katash is due for a big game after sputtering vs. the Greeks last week. Buck Johnson has been in fine form, and Nadav Heneffel has been nothing short of brilliant in recent weeks, and was named to the All-Europe team this week.

One good thing for Maccabi: Teoman Alibegovic, the man whose late three-pointers lifted Ulker to victory over Maccabi in Istanbul, will not be suiting up tonight. After his dramatics vs. Maccabi, it was believed the Slovak forward had saved his job as Ulker's second foreigner. However, since then his play has fallen off again, and he is reportedly in the process of being replaced by Ulker, who left him home in Istanbul.

That doesn't mean Maccabi can relax. Ulker's other foreigner, Dan Godfred, managed to sneak in for some easy baskets in the first game between the two teams, and he is shooting a fine 57.3% from the field in Euroleague play. Even more dangerous is Halki Erdemay, who has hit an incredible 21-42 three-pointers in Europe. The Turks love to put it up from way out, as evidenced by their 81-208 (38.9%) accuracy from beyond the arc so far this year.

Kevin Rankin leads the Turks' frontcourt attack, where he's grabbing more than seven rebounds a

game, and point guard Orhun Ene is also dangerous and had a good game against Maccabi in Istanbul. Both he and Haluk Yildirim are averaging close to 40% on their three-point attempts.

Borko Radovic had a good game vs. the Turks, but has seen little playing time since Sherf chose to go with the Sheffer-Katash backcourt. With Leaf hurt, it might be Radovic's night. Maccabi should pound the ball inside to its big men and do everything to stop the Turks' three-point shooting to beat Ulker.

Win or lose, Maccabi's European season will continue, but isn't it time the club reward its fans at Yad Eliahu by delivering an old-fashioned whipping to a Euroleague opponent? Doing so in tonight's important encounter with the Turks will not only energize the club for the road ahead, but will send a message to European opponents that on its home court, Maccabi is still king of its castle.

In other local basketball news, Maccabi's Guy Goodes has been forced to shelve plans to return to action for the time being.

According to reports in the Hebrew press, Goodes' injured knee swelled up again when he tried to resume a full schedule of practices, and he has been told to rest for the next few months, meaning his season is essentially over.

Meanwhile, National Basketball League officials announced that Hapoel Safed has ceased functioning due to financial troubles. Safed therefore will be automatically relegated to the second division next year, and all its games played this season will not count, with necessary adjustments made to teams' records who already played Safed this season.



ROADBLOCK - New York's center, Patrick Ewing, slams into Washington's center Gheorghe Muresan during Tuesday's game at Madison Square Garden. Ewing was booed throughout the game for comments he made in the press about Knicks fans. (Reuter)

Knicks hand Bullets fifth straight loss

NEW YORK (AP) - Patrick Ewing, playing for the first time since he criticized New York fans, heard some of the loudest boos of his career as the Knicks sent Washington to its fifth straight loss, 85-73 Tuesday night.

Ewing was booed during player introductions and nearly every time he touched the ball, but he scored four straight baskets after his 0-for-8 start to help New York pull ahead for good in the second quarter.

The 12-year veteran finished with 15 points on 7-for-21 shooting as the Knicks beat the Bullets at Madison Square Garden.

Allan Houston and John Starks also had 15 points for New York. Buck Williams had a season-high 15 rebounds.

Chris Webber led Washington with 20 points and 12 rebounds.

Jazz 110, Pacers 86

Host Utah set a franchise record with its 15th consecutive victory, getting a career-high 21 points and 15 rebounds from Greg Ostertag.

Utah broke its previous record of 14 consecutive wins set in 1994-95 - the season the Jazz finished with a franchise-best 60 wins.

Karl Malone scored 14 of his 22 points in the second half and Jeff Hornacek added 15 points as the Jazz improved to 17-2 for the year.

Warriors 101, Raptors 91

Joe Smith scored a career-high 37 points and grabbed a season-high 17 rebounds for visiting Golden State.

Latrell Sprewell added 23 points, Chris Mullin 16 and the Warriors out-rebounded the Raptors 31-32 in ending Toronto's four-game home winning streak.

The Raptors closed to 78-71 on Carlos Rogers' layup with 8:57 left.

but Smith's three-point play allowed the Warriors to regain their double-digit lead.

Smith made 12-of-14 free throws and the Warriors, the NBA's top free-throw shooting team, hit 32-of-38 from the line.

Damon Stoudamire had 19 points and 10 assists for Toronto.

Hawks 89, Nuggets 86

Steve Smith capped off a brilliant second half by hitting a jumper in the lane with 3.9 seconds left.

Smith managed only two points in the first half but scored 18 in the final two quarters as the Hawks won their seventh in a row at home.

Denver lost for the 11th time in 12 games despite a stirring fourth-quarter comeback that had the Nuggets on the verge of stealing a road win. Dale Ellis and LaPhonso Ellis scored 10 points apiece in the final quarter but each missed a critical shot in the closing seconds.

After a Dale Ellis miss with 10.5 seconds left the Hawks struck 'em play' for Smith, who took 13 passes from Mike Bielecki, spun in the lane and sank an 11-footer.

Heat 76, Cavaliers 74

Voshon Lenard banked in a twisting second-chance shot at the buzzer for visiting Miami.

After Bobby Phillips tied it at 74 with two free throws with 24 seconds left, the Heat set up a 3-point attempt that Dan Majerle missed from the top of the circle.

The rebound bounced toward the sideline, and after chasing it down, Lenard dribbled through defenders before making a wild, double-clutch jumper just before the buzzer sounded.

Lenard had eight points. The Heat was led by Tim Hardaway's 25, while Alcezo Mourning had 14.

Rockets 96, Timberwolves 94

Clyde Drexler made an off-balance, driving layup with 1.3 seconds to play for visiting Houston.

Drexler scored a season-high 36 points and Hakeem Olajuwon had 29 for Houston. Charles Barkley, slowed by a foot injury, had just seven points but grabbed 12 rebounds.

Sam Mitchell, subbing for the injured Kevin Garnett, scored a season-high 28 points for Minnesota, which lost its fifth straight. Rookie guard Stephon Marbury added 18 points and 12 assists.

After Mitchell's two free throws tied it with 24.6 seconds left, Drexler took the ball at the top of the key, drove past Doug West and avoided an attempted block by 7-foot-3 Stoyko Vrankovic by banking in his shot high off the board.

Chris Carr had a chance to tie the game in the final second, but missed the first of two foul shots.

Pistons 93, Bucks 85

In Milwaukee, Joe Dumars scored 14 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter and Grant Hill added 26 as Detroit won its fifth straight.

The Bucks were led by Vin Baker with 28 points, but sorely missed Glenn Robinson, out with a sprained right ankle.

The Pistons opened the final quarter with consecutive 3-pointers by Dumars and Terry Mills to go in front 75-70, a lead they never relinquished.

Suns 93, Spurs 76

In a matchup between sickly teams, host Phoenix proved its getting well faster than San Antonio.

Wesley Person tied his career-high with 29 points as the Suns won their fourth straight.

San Antonio's 10th loss in its last 11 games spoiled the head coaching debut of Gregg Popovich, the club's general manager, who fired and replaced Bob Hill earlier Tuesday.

David Robinson, sidelined with a sore back for the first 18 games this season, had nine points and nine rebounds in 20 minutes of his season debut.

Dominique Wilkins led San Antonio

with 17 points.

Magic 99, Blazers 93

Gerald Wilkins scored 10 of his 18 points in the last 5:16 to help visiting Orlando snap a four-game losing streak.

Penny Hardaway, returning to action after being sidelined since Nov. 17 with a knee injury, scored 16 points, including a clutch 3-pointer just before the 24-second buzzer sounded to put the Magic ahead 87-83 with 4:30 remaining.

Dennis Scott also had 18 points for Orlando in his first action since Nov. 23 because of a hamstring pull.

Cliff Robinson led the Blazers with a season-high 33 points.

Mavericks 108, Clippers 95

Chris Gatling scored 14 of his 30 points in the third quarter to lead visiting Dallas.

Jason Kidd added 18 points and George McCloud had 17 for the Mavericks.

Malik Sealy and Loy Vaughn led the Clippers with 14 points each. Richard Jefferson added 13 points for the Angels.

Lakers 92, Kings 90

Eddie Jones made two free throws with nine seconds remaining and visiting Los Angeles withstood the loss of Nick Van Exel to an ejection.

The Kings had a chance to tie it but Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf missed a desperation 20-foot jumper as time expired.

TUESDAY'S NBA RESULTS:

Golden State 101, Toronto 91
New York 85, Washington 73
Atlanta 89, Denver 88
Miami 76, Cleveland 74
Houston 96, Minnesota 94
Detroit 93, Milwaukee 85
Utah 110, Indiana 84
Phoenix 93, San Antonio 76
Orlando 99, Portland 93
Dallas 108, L.A. Clippers 95
L.A. Lakers 92, Sacramento 90

Harazi's move to Sunderland nixed

ORI LEWIS

RONNEN Harazi's move to English Premiership side Sunderland has fallen through after a detailed scan of his foot at a Newcastle hospital this week showed the injury could recur.

Harazi, who was already back in Israel when the news came through, was bitterly disappointed by the ocs and will undergo surgery as soon as possible to correct the fault.

He has subsequently been released from the national team by coach Shlomo Scharf and is expected to be out of action for about three months. Harazi's absence prompted Scharf to call up Bnei Yehuda striker Alon Mizrahi as a late replacement last night.

Harazi had previously suffered a fracture in his ankle and was sidelined for several months during

the European Championship qualifying campaign in 1994-95. Following his recovery, scans of his foot at local hospitals showed that the injury had healed completely, making yesterday's news all the more surprising for Harazi.

Although he is able to play at present, the Newcastle doctors who reviewed Harazi's scan said they could not guarantee that the ankle was fully healed and that the injury would not recur.

Sunderland manager Peter Reid broke the bad news to Harazi yesterday.

The player will thus return to the ranks of Betar Jerusalem, although his assistance in bringing Betar another championship title this season is very unlikely.

The other Israeli international hoping to play in England, Avi Nisim, will return from trials with Sheffield Wednesday today. Manager David Pleat invited Nisim for just two days' training and appears ready to sign the midfielder immediately.

Nisim has no known fitness problems which might thwart his plans. He returns home today.

Nisim and Harazi were the only two players to miss out on yesterday's national team training session in preparation for the World Cup qualifier with Luxembourg on Sunday.

The squad has a day's rest today before beginning final preparations for the match tomorrow. The Luxembourg squad arrives in Israel today and will train at the National Stadium this evening.

EASTERN CONFERENCE										WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Streak	Home	Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Streak	Home
Atlanta	18	2	0	54	62	38	+24	W2	10-0	Los Angeles	18	2	0	54	62	38	+24	W2	10-0
Buffalo	17	3	0	51	58	41	+17	W1	9-1	San Jose	17	3	0	51	58	41	+17	W1	9-1
Calgary	16	4	1	47	54	44	+10	W1	8-2	St. Louis	16	4	1	47	54	44	+10	W1	8-2
Chicago	15	5	0	45	50	45	+5	W1	7-3	Washington	15	5	0	45	50	45	+5	W1	7-3
Columbus	14	6	1	42	46	49	-3	L1	6-4	Winnipeg	14	6	1	42	46	49	-3	L1	6-4
Dallas	13	7	0	39	42	51	-9	L1	5-5	Arizona	13	7	0	39	42	51	-9	L1	5-5
Florida	12	8	1	36	38	54	-16	L1	4-6	Colorado	12	8	1	36	38	54	-16	L1	4-6
Los Angeles	11	9	0	33	34	61	-27	L1	3-7	Edmonton	11	9	0	33	34	61	-27	L1	3-7
Minnesota	10	10	1	30	30	68	-38	L1	2-8	Phoenix	10	10	1	30	30	68	-38	L1	2-8
Montreal	9	11	0	27	26	75	-49	L1	1-9	San Jose	9	11	0	27	26	75	-49	L1	1-9
New York	8	12	1	24	24	82	-58	L1	0-10	St. Louis	8	12	1	24	24	82	-58	L1	0-10
Ottawa	7	13	0	21	20	89	-69	L1	0-11	Washington	7	13	0	21	20	89	-69	L1	0-11
Philadelphia	6	14	1	18	18	96	-78	L1	0-12	Winnipeg	6	14	1	18	18	96	-78	L1	0-12
Pittsburgh	5	15	0	15	14	103	-89	L1	0-13	Arizona	5	15	0	15	14	103	-89	L1	0-13
San Jose	4	16	1	12	12	110	-98	L1	0-14	Colorado	4	16	1	12	12	110	-98	L1	0-14
Tampa Bay	3	17	0	9	8	117	-109	L1	0-15	Edmonton	3	17	0	9	8	117	-109	L1	0-15
Washington	2	18	1	6	6	124	-118	L1	0-16	Phoenix	2	18	1	6	6	124	-118	L1	0-16
Winnipeg	1	19	0	3	3	131	-128	L1	0-17	San Jose	1	19	0	3	3	131	-128	L1	0-17

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South Africa facing 'impossible odds'

KANPUR, India (Reuters) - India's bowlers, inspired by former captain Mohammed Azharuddin's unbeaten 163, carried their side to the brink of a first series victory over South Africa in the third and final Test yesterday.

The South Africans, set an impossible target of 451 to win, had slumped to 127 for five by the close on the fourth day and facing the near-certainty of a 2-1 series reverse on the last day.

Azharuddin, sacked as captain earlier this year and nearly dropped from the side altogether, punished the tourists' attack in the first session after starting the day 12 runs short of his century.

The elegant 33-year-old right-hander, who scored a 74-ball hundred in Calcutta, duly completed his 16th century in 75 tests and by the declaration had struck 25 boundaries and a six off Pat Symcox in 8 288-ball stay. His sixth-wicket stand of 165 with Dravid (56), was an Indian record for any wicket against South Africa.

India finally called a halt at their lunch score of 400 for seven, setting the South Africans a target never achieved by a side batting last in 120 years of Test cricket.

South Africa suffered an early blow when left-hander Gary Kirsten, who scored centuries in both innings of the second test at Calcutta, was trapped leg before for seven by Jayagal Srinath.

Herashelle Gibbs was bowled by Venkatesh Prasad for five and Darryl Cullinan, at the non-striker's end, was run out for two by a direct hit from Tendulkar at mid-off.

South Africa second innings
A. Hudson c and (Laxman) b Kumble 31
G. Kirsten b Srinath 18
H. Gibbs b Prasad 5
D. Cullinan run out 2
H. C. Coetzee c Tendulkar b Joshi 50
B. Mendelsohn not out 5
D. Richardson not out 5
Extras (b-9) 22
Total (for 6 wickets, 63 overs) 127
To bat: L. K. Steyn, P. Symcox, F. de Villiers, A. J. Roalson
Fall of wickets: 1-21 (28.3) 39 (47.5) 109 (50.0) 257 (72.2) 384 (88.0) 447 (98.0)
Bowling (to date): Srinath 11-4-15-1, Prasad 9-4-24-1, Kumble 16-7-17-1, Kapoor 9-4-10-0, Joshi 18-5-92-1.

NHL SCOREBOARD

TUESDAY'S NHL RESULTS:
New Jersey 5, Toronto 2
Edmonton 0, Detroit 0, the N.Y. Islanders 8, Phoenix 2
Philadelphia 5, Florida 4
Ottawa 5, Calgary 5, the Pittsburgh 5, Los Angeles 3

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA			
Florida	17	5	3	35	68	59			
Philadelphia	18	12	2	34	66	62			
New Jersey	15	11	1	31	69	67			
N.Y. Rangers	15	14	0	30	106	93			
Washington	13	14	2	27	72	83			
N.Y. Islanders	8	11	8	25	74	74			
Tampa Bay	8	15	2	20	73	84			
Northwest Division									
Harford	13	7	3	28	60	60			
Buffalo	13	13	2	28	82	83			
Montreal	12	14	4	28	102	106			
Pittsburgh	12	13	2	27	96	100			
Boston	10	12	5	25	77	90			
Ottawa	8	12	7	23	72	84			
WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Central Division									
Detroit	15	9	5	35	61	53			
St. Louis	18	10	2	34	78	67			
St. Louis	15	14	0	30	85	86			
Chicago	12	15	3	27	75	76			
Toronto	12	18	0	24	68	105			
Phoenix	10	15	4	24	69	90			
Pacific Division									
Colorado	17	8							

CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT AVNER Birn, music director of the Israel Camerata Jerusalem, leads the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba in a light classics program featuring Mozart's 40th Symphony...

DOUBLE-bassist Franco Petracchi gives a masterclass at the Israel Conservatory of Music in Tel Aviv today (9:30 a.m.-12:30 and 2-4).

YOUNG pianist, Selim Abd Ashkar present a recital tomorrow (noon) at the Jerusalem Music Centre playing music by Beethoven, Chopin and Brahms.

CLARINETIST extraordinaire Sharon Kam, sensational pianist Itamar Golan, cellist Hillel Tzori, and violinist Guy Braunstein team up for a rare concert Saturday at the Tel Aviv Museum (8:30) where they play music by Britten and Bartok as well as Messiaen's Quartet For The End of Time.

THE Keshet Baroque Orchestra opens another series of basically baroque programs played on so-called original instruments Saturday (8:30) at the Israel Music Conservatory in Tel Aviv, performing 17th-century German music.

THE Tones and Colors at the Gallery series continues with a recital by flutist Er'ella Talmi and harpsichordist Jochewed Schwarz playing music by Handel, Avni, Bach, Scarlatti, Pelemand and Flohous. Saturday (11 a.m.) at the Municipal Gallery in Kfar Sava and next Wednesday (8:30) at the Tel Aviv University Gallery.

JAZZ

HELEN KAYE

SINGER/pianist Patricia Barber sings the classic jazz repertoire and sometimes her own compositions as well. She was already playing in Chicago jazz clubs as a student and has played in New York and at jazz festivals all over the world. The latest of her three CDs is the '94 Cafe Blue. Hers is the third



Patricia Barber sings jazz at the Tel Aviv Museum.

program in the museum Chicago Jazz series. Tonight at the Tel Aviv Museum at 9 p.m., with an extra program tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

AND still more premieres within the Curran Up framework at Suzanne Dellal. Choreographers Noa Wertheim and Adi Shal and their Vertigo Company present Bordomino together with live music from Steve Horowitz. It's set in a bar and follows the shifting fortunes of nine characters. Tonight on the mainstage at 8:30.

The Barbsava ensemble presents three more new pieces by Inbal Pimo, Sa'ar Magal and Lara Barsaog on the Inbal stage tonight at 10 p.m. and on Saturday at 7:30 and 10 p.m. Tomorrow Liat Dror and Nir Ben-Gal present Investigation, their introspective new piece, on the mainstage at 2 p.m.

ROCK

HELEN KAYE

THE Negev development town of Sderot has been named the Liverpool of Israel because of all the rock bands it's produced. There'll be a marathon of the newest including Renaissance, Ha'azula and Tanara at the Inbal Ethnic Center in Suzanne Dellal today between noon and midnight. Info: (03) 517-3711

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1 8:31 News in Arabic 8:45 Everest Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV 8:00 Surprise Train 8:25 Kay and Tommy 8:45 Gays, Gal and G4 9:00 Auto 9:30 The Jungle Book 10:30 Storybook 10:35 Nema Your Adventure 11:00 Curse of the Viking Grave (1997) - Jimmy takes a power from a Viking and ends himself hunted by greiv robbers and the Viking's spirit (91 mins.) 12:30 Rogabro - animated version 13:00 The Oneida Line 14:00 Super Technology 14:05 Kay and Tommy 14:45 Gays, Gal and G4 15:00 Auto

CHANNEL 2 15:30 Thryon Tales 15:50 Booby 16:00 The Mysterious Island 16:25 King Solomon - part 2 16:55 Zap to Beest 16:59 A New Evening 17:34 King Solomon - part 3 18:00 News for Language 18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS 22:30 Meeting 1 8:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS 18:30 News Flash 18:31 Lighting of the Menorah 18:32 The 1933 The Simpsons 20:00 News 20:45 Basketball: Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Cholon (retrans) - live 22:45 American Gothic 22:50 News 00:00 News for Language

CHANNEL 2 10:00 Shelley Duvall's Fairytales 11:00 Just The Way We Are 11:54 - a cropped version of the film with a photographer she meets at a ski resort. With Kelly McGillis and Michael Caine. \$4 min.) 12:40 Holiday Songs 12:45 A Healer of Time 13:30 All Together Now 13:40 The 1933 14:30 The Best Israel Video Clips 14:50 The Bold and the Beautiful 16:30 Lighting of the eighth menorah 16:35 News 16:40 News with Rafi Reshef 17:30 Operi Cards 18:00 Santa Barbara 18:00 The Mosaic 20:00 News 20:30 Zulu Zulu Live 21:05 Candid Camera 21:45 Dan Snirot Live 22:30 Exposure 00:00 News 00:05 Ticket for Two 00:30 I Don't Buy Kisses Anymore (1982) - a show owner looking for love is shocked to find his psychology student has been seeing another woman in her research on eating disorders (112 mins.) 2:00 On the Edge of the Sea

JORDAN TV (unconfirmed) 14:05 His and Ovid and the Gang 14:35 Out of This World 15:00 Covington Cross 15:30 Feature film 17:00 News flash 17:01 News flash 17:02 News flash 17:03 News flash 17:04 News flash 17:05 News flash 17:06 News flash 17:07 News flash 17:08 News flash 17:09 News flash 17:10 News flash 17:11 News flash 17:12 News flash 17:13 News flash 17:14 News flash 17:15 News flash 17:16 News flash 17:17 News flash 17:18 News flash 17:19 News flash 17:20 News flash 17:21 News flash 17:22 News flash 17:23 News flash 17:24 News flash 17:25 News flash 17:26 News flash 17:27 News flash 17:28 News flash 17:29 News flash 17:30 News flash 17:31 News flash 17:32 News flash 17:33 News flash 17:34 News flash 17:35 News flash 17:36 News flash 17:37 News flash 17:38 News flash 17:39 News flash 17:40 News flash 17:41 News flash 17:42 News flash 17:43 News flash 17:44 News flash 17:45 News flash 17:46 News flash 17:47 News flash 17:48 News flash 17:49 News flash 17:50 News flash 17:51 News 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Police: Russian criminal groups a threat to state

EVELYN GORDON

ATTEMPTS by organized crime to penetrate Israel represent a "strategic threat" to the state, the head of the police intelligence division told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

In the wake of mass immigration since 1989, Cmdr. Hezi Leder said, a previously unknown phenomenon hit Israel in the form of violent criminal figures willing to use "any means" to achieve their ends. These underworld leaders are trying to infiltrate Israel's political and economic system, Leder said.

Leder said police had worried these criminals might attempt to influence the outcome of the last elections or even gain control of some political body. Such things have happened in other countries, even in the West, he said, and the activity of these criminals constitutes a "strategic threat" to Israel.

The police know certain criminal elements discussed whether it would be better to infiltrate one of the two large political parties or to try to gain influence in a smaller party, Leder said. Still, police do not know what was decided.

The criminal groups have tried to infiltrate local authorities, the media and the economy, Leder said. He described how one suspect asked the Bank of Israel for permission to set up a bank. The central bank denied a permit, so he applied for permission to set up a branch of a Russian bank. The central bank again refused and eventually called the president of the Russian bank to ask him to put a stop to the requests. The next day, Leder said, the Russian banker was shot dead.

There are several ministries targeted by these criminal figures, Leder said, including Interior, Justice, Finance, and Industry and Trade. In one affair that police nicknamed "Russian Romance," an Israeli worker in the Interior

Ministry was found to have helped criminals immigrate on false documents. Those responsible for the affair have since been indicted.

Leder said it was very difficult to fight this problem when Israel has not even enacted a law against money laundering.

Former internal security minister Moshe Shahal (Labor) told the committee he was warned about such infiltrations by his Russian counterpart when he served as minister. He estimated suspect elements already brought some \$2 billion into Israel.

Committee Chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) said it would be very easy to buy influence in the Israeli political system, because there are few restrictions on contributions to individual candidates. While there are restrictions on donations to parties, these apply only nine months before election day, he said.

At the request of Shahal and Ra'anon Cohen (Labor), Leder also addressed the reported pre-election meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Russian businessman Grigori Lushansky, who is suspected by the police of being a leading underworld figure. Leder said the police had received information indicating that such a meeting took place, but said the information had not been verified. Yisrael Ba'aliya spokesman Moti Inbari said Lushansky is not even on the Interior Ministry's "not welcome" list.

Inbari also took issue with Leder's remarks on the Russian flavor of organized crime here, saying that if there is a "Russian threat," it is time the police stopped talking about it and began making arrests.

"We are very critical of the fact that the police are always talking, but not doing a thing," he said. "And meanwhile, they are slandering an entire community."



Trucks bearing banners reading 'Enough Transport Ministry Abandonment' roll through Tel Aviv yesterday, in a protest against permission being given for Jordanian truckers to haul cargo. (Tom Ocsendryver/Israel Sun)

Canadian diplomat expelled as suspected drug smuggler

RAINE MARCUS

THE first officer of the Canadian Embassy was expelled from the country two weeks ago after being suspected of smuggling cocaine in his diplomatic pouch and engaging in drug trafficking worth millions of dollars.

The expulsion of 20-year diplomatic veteran Douglas Wardle was disclosed yesterday, following the lifting of a publication ban. Since diplomats enjoy immunity from prosecution and police are not allowed to question them, a Canadian police representative was sent here, and following recommendations Wardle was sent packing.

A police source said diplomat Wardle served as more than just a

courier and actually financed the drug shipments.

"It is more than probable that tens of kilos have already been distributed here which we missed," said the source.

The police source said the drugs were purchased in the US and were brought here, via Canada, by Wardle. Police broke the case following a two-month undercover investigation, based on tip-offs.

Police are still investigating whether other employees of the Canadian Embassy were involved in the cocaine smuggling operation. So far two Israelis, Meir Hazan, 37, of Beersheba and

Ya'acov Sternheim, 46, of Yavne have been arrested in the case.

But Tel Aviv detectives are searching for a third Israeli who is believed to be the leader of the drug gang. This man, reportedly a friend of Wardle's, has apparently evaded police at Ben-Gurion Airport and fled the country.

Hazan, suspected of being a cocaine distributor, was arrested on November 21 at his home. He was remanded for eight days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. Seven kilos of cocaine, allegedly smuggled by Wardle, were found in a suitcase in his home.

The Canadian Embassy has refused to comment on the case.

Court okays interrogation of Salameh

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice gave the General Security Service permission yesterday to continue interrogating suspected Hamas terrorist Hassan Salameh, but said it would reconsider Salameh's petition against the interrogation in 45 days.

Salameh was indicted in August for planning and organizing three of the bus bombings in February-March of this year, but the GSS received new information against Salameh last month, and now suspect him of having been involved in several other unsolved terrorist attacks.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to rainy.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Forecast
Amsterdam	cloudy
Berlin	cloudy
Business Area	cloudy
Chicago	cloudy
Copenhagen	cloudy
Frankfurt	cloudy
Geneva	cloudy
Helsinki	cloudy
Hong Kong	cloudy
London	cloudy
Los Angeles	cloudy
Moscow	cloudy
New York	cloudy
Paris	cloudy
Rome	cloudy
Sao Paulo	cloudy
Sydney	cloudy
Tokyo	cloudy
Vienna	cloudy

Bill to bar 'memorials to murderers' passes prelim

LIAT COLLINS

THE opposition scored a small victory in the Knesset yesterday, when a bill proposed by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) to ban the raising of monuments to murderers passed preliminary reading by 36 to 32, with three abstentions.

The government opposed the bill and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi held a filibuster in the plenum in an attempt to give coalition faction chairman Michael Eitan time to find enough MKs to vote against it.

Cohen said he raised the bill following reports Baruch Goldstein's grave has become a shrine, on the one hand, and in view of the stated intentions of the family of Salah Nazeel, the terrorist suicide

bomber who blew up a Dan bus in Tel Aviv in October 1994, to raise a memorial in his honor.

He said all Israelis oppose murder and the adoration of murderers. "There is no argument on this between religious and secular, left and right, because we're talking about having a clear conscience as a nation. We can't accept that under our rule in our own country a site be established to attract those who worship murderers," Cohen said.

He noted that, according to the law, every grave must be in a recognized burial ground and Goldstein's tomb on the outskirts

of Kiryat Arba violates the law. He called for Goldstein's grave to be moved to a regular cemetery.

MKs from the Third Way voted with the opposition in favor of the bill, allowing it to pass.

Hanegbi said the bill would not help the specific case for which it was being proposed. He said the bill had been raised specifically as a cry against Goldstein's grave, but he noted that even if it were to become law it would not apply in Judea and Samaria, and would also not apply retroactively in the case of Goldstein's grave. He said the Justice Ministry is examining other legal options to "rectify the situation."

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the seven of spades, the nine of hearts, the ten of diamonds and the ace of clubs.

Researchers link bone aging to single gene

JUDY SIEGEL

ISRAELI scientists studying residents of rural Turkmenia and Chuvashia in the CIS have discovered that the aging of bone is caused by a single gene, rather than by the large number of genes previously believed to be involved. This finding was described by the researchers as an "important breakthrough," because it will lead not only to the identification and mapping of the gene, but also to understanding the biochemical chain reactions that lead from the gene itself to the breakdown of the bones.

The research was carried out by Prof. Zvi Livshits and Prof. Yair Ben-David of Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine. It was funded by the Science Ministry (because of the involvement of immigrant scientists) and carried out with support from genome labs in Berlin and Heidelberg and a university lab in Madrid.

Livshits, who was born in Russia, made connections with labs and scientists in his native country. This allowed the two Israelis to study blood and urine samples from 800 residents of Turkmenistan in the southern CIS and 600 Chuvashis, who live in central Russia. As anthropologists, the two TAU scientists knew how to identify large families who have been living in circumscribed areas for many generations.

They took samples from several generations of 100 families and performed scans with a mobile bone density scanner, in cooperation with Prof. Oleg Pavlovsky of the University of Moscow. On the basis of the data, the TAU scientists conducted epidemiological, genetic, and statistical analyses, which all pointed to the fact that one gene was responsible for the breakdown of bones over a lifetime.

Osteoporosis, in which bones lose density, is a normal process after the age of 70. But among 10% of women and a smaller percentage of men, their bones lose calcium and become spongy in their 60s or even their 50s. Certain drugs can slow or reduce the loss of bone mass if taken before most of the damage is done.

Court overturns drug conviction

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court yesterday overturned the conviction of a man who already spent three-and-a-half years in jail for drug smuggling.

David Shmerling had been convicted along with two other men of bringing a large quantity of heroin into the country and was serving 13 years in prison.

Shmerling, Herzl Zion and Dov Alexander had been business partners in Haifa from 1989 to 1993. In 1992, their business ran into financial troubles and, according to their indictment, they decided to go into drug running. Their first attempt failed, but they later succeeded in smuggling 49 kilos of heroin.

Alexander was the one who actually made the trips to Turkey.

He was caught by the police and implicated the other two. According to Alexander, Zion and Shmerling planned the scheme, put up the money and located other men used in the scheme.

Shmerling and Zion claimed Alexander falsely accused them because they fell out over their business. Shmerling and Zion blamed Alexander for their financial troubles, and this was his way of taking revenge, they said.

The Tel Aviv District Court found Alexander's testimony believable and convicted the two men in July 1994. They then appealed to the Supreme Court.

Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Elisha Mazza and Ya'acov Kedmi

all agreed that there was enough evidence supporting Alexander's testimony to convict Zion.

Goldberg and Mazza, however, said there was not enough evidence to convict Shmerling. There was no evidence against him except Alexander's testimony, they said, and that's not enough for a conviction.

The third judge, Kedmi, said it would be illogical to suppose Alexander and Zion would have embarked on a crime meant to rescue their business without Shmerling's knowledge. This made Alexander's testimony believable, he said.

Goldberg and Mazza said logic does not constitute independent supporting evidence of the type needed for a conviction.

Police radar guns catch speeding buildings, sidewalks

WHEN a police radar gun, used for catching speeding drivers, registers that a stationary building is moving 22 kilometers per hour, it's time to ask just how accurate the radar gun is.

In recent tests carried out by an IDF military court, the radar gun failed to register any speed for a moving car 70 percent of the time.

It registered the wrong speed in 20 percent of the trials, and managed to record the correct speed in 10 percent of instances.

But the same radar gun also registered a building as moving at 22 kph, a sidewalk going 19 kph, and a fence as travelling 19 kph an hour - in reverse.

The tests, which were reported

Jerusalem Post Staff

on this week by Army Radio, were carried out in October as part of a trial in the Southern Command Military Court of two soldiers for speeding. The two, who had been driving in an urban area, where the maximum speed is 50 kph, had been recorded as driving 83 and

89 kph.

The accused, who had been charged on the basis of evidence from a radar gun borrowed by the Military Police from their civilian counterparts, brought two experts who asserted that the radar guns were unreliable. The two cited information provided by the manufacturers to show that a great number of external factors could affect the accuracy of the radar gun recordings.

As a result of the evidence, the court decided to conduct its own test. Taking part were civilian police officers, military policemen, the accused, the witnesses, and the members of the court. A verdict in the case is expected soon.

Meanwhile, in light of the incident, the Road Safety Authority (RSA), which provides the police with funds for enforcement equipment, has cast serious doubts on

Striking Arab council heads to step up fight for equal budgets

STRIKING Israeli Arab council heads yesterday vowed to intensify their fight to equalize their budgets with those of Jewish local authorities, after a disappointing response by foreign ambassadors to invitations to visit their protest tent opposite the Prime Minister's Office.

Only representatives from three out of 30 embassies - Slovakia, Costa Rica and Russia - invited actually visited the protest tent yesterday.

"We are convinced that pressure was put on the countries involved and for that reason the ambassadors did not come or send representatives," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads.

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